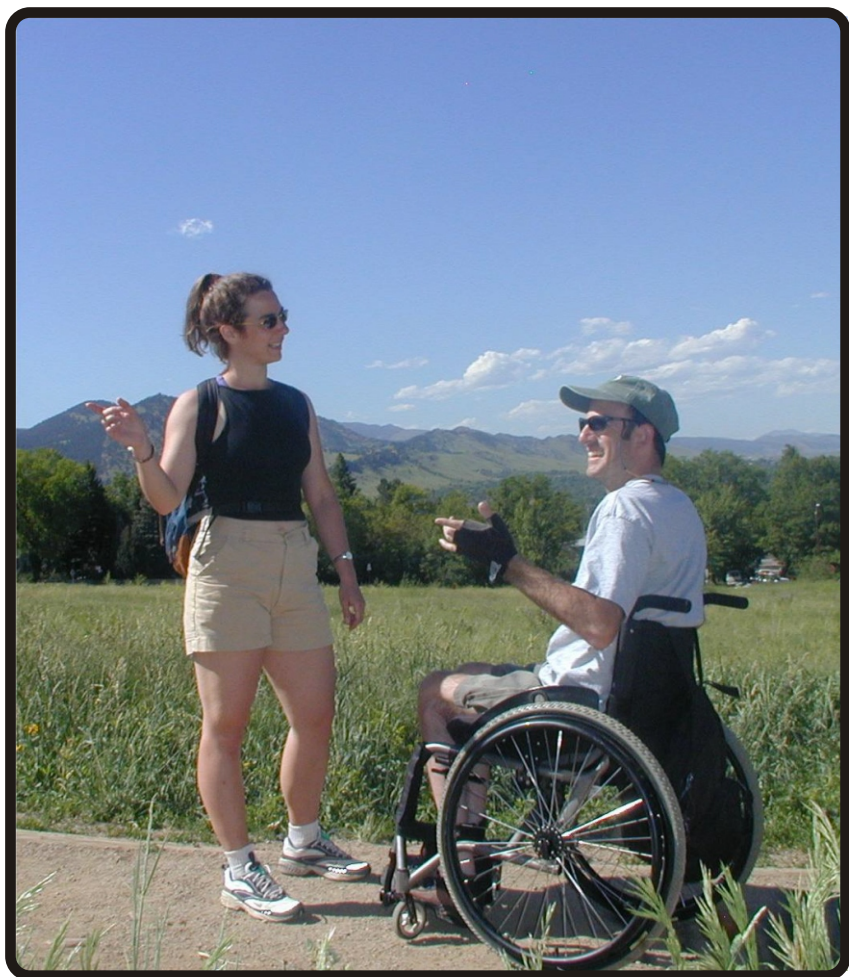


# Boulder Area Accessible Trails & Natural Sites



**Topher Downham, Steven J. Mertz  
Dinah S. Pollard, CTRS**



Sponsored by the City of Boulder  
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City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks,  
City of Boulder Parks and Recreation EXPAND  
Program,  
and Boulder County Parks and Open Space

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Boulder Parks and Recreation EXPAND Program  
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**This accessibility guide book is a memorial to  
Hank Atkinson who contributed his technical  
expertise and passion for the outdoors to  
enhance the accessibility of trails  
and natural areas in the city and county of  
Boulder.**

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Setting out to redesign maps, write a guide book and make universal access improvement recommendations to local governments proved to be a thoroughly educational and complex yet rewarding undertaking. It was a pleasure to work with so many people with and without disabilities who understand the value of making quality of outdoor accessibility information available to people of all abilities. The TAP and “Accessibility Guide” would not have been possible without the help of numerous people. First, and foremost, though, special appreciation must go to:

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book.

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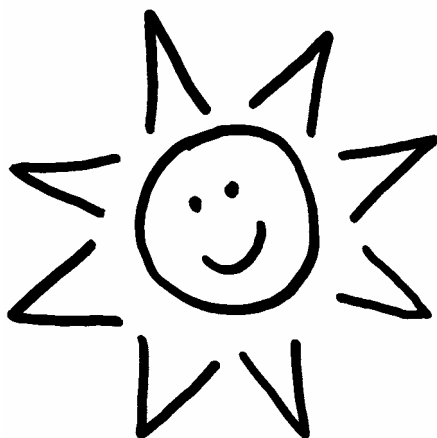
Colleen Fitzgerald of the Boulder Parks and Recreation EXPAND Program;

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To those not listed, your contributions did not go unrecognized. Your words and actions of support helped to keep the project going at times when it seemed too immense to accomplish. Thank you!



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\*This publication may be available in alternative formats through the Boulder Public Library, Main Branch. Phone: 303-441-3100.

\*Proceeds from the sale of this book go to outdoor developed area accessibility projects among the participating agencies.



# Introduction

## What is TAP?

The Trail Accessibility Project (TAP) is a multi-agency effort to address the need for Universal Access information as it applies to trails, scenic overlooks and other natural areas. The TAP began in the fall of 1997 and has been a cooperative undertaking between the City of Boulder Parks and Recreation EXPAND Program, City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks, Boulder County Parks and Open Space, and Eldorado Canyon State Park. Other contributors include United Cerebral Palsy of Colorado, The Disability Task Force of Boulder and more than 25 volunteers.

## Improving Trail Access

Since the advent of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), many strides have been made in improving access to programs and facilities. Although the ADA did not include developed outdoor areas in its legal parameters, the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, in conjunction with PLAE, Inc. (Playing and Learning in Adaptive Environments), established Universal Access designs *guidelines*. These design guidelines, also known as ADAAG (Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines) have yet to be adopted as federally mandated minimum standards with legislative backing. At the time of this writing, the Federal Access Board recently submitted its recommendations to the federal government for establishing minimum required *standards* for accessibility of developed outdoor areas. It is expected that those recommendations will be adopted.

into federal legislation under the ADA within the next one to two years.

## **Philosophy**

In researching related projects nationwide, two primary philosophical differences became evident. There are those who believe that providing descriptive trail data, not specifically addressing accessibility, is the appropriate direction to take. The intent of providing such data is to enable users to make their own determination of their ability to use a trail. Those involved in the TAP felt that using only that approach would be a barrier to trail users with cognitive disabilities. The other predominant philosophical belief is that trails should be identified with a difficulty rating similar to the way ski resorts label slopes as green, blue, black or double black. In an effort to combine both schools of thought, this guidebook offers both descriptions and difficulty ratings. It is incumbent upon the user to experiment with the information provided to make their own choices based on individual abilities.

Although the contributing agencies are currently not required by law to make their outdoor developed areas more accessible, each recognizes the importance of providing not only accurate information about accessibility, but also a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities for people of all abilities. The TAP has begun to unify the efforts of local public land management agencies by joining resources, sharing ideas, and creating an awareness of the importance of future regional planning for accessibility. The

information gathered from the TAP is being used to help determine projects that will make trails and natural areas more wheelchair user friendly. We hope you find this Accessibility Guidebook useful as you plan your outings.

## **Understanding the Information**

The trails and sites listed in this book are those that have enough features that fall within the ADAAG to be interesting places to visit for the average wheelchair, walker or scooter use. Trails and sites *not* listed in this book are considered predominantly “difficult” or “most difficult” (see Difficulty Ratings) making them less practical to include in this book. We’ve provided information in three different forms to be as user-friendly and practical as possible. What this book provides are:

1. A comprehensive map which identifies all of the sites in this guide book by agency and number, to provide a regional perspective.
2. Narrative site and trail descriptions which a) enable the user to make their own choices about the level of challenge they are interested in trying and b) provide usable details not found on standard maps.
3. Individual trail maps which offer information in quick, easy-to-read symbol form.

Trails and sites are listed by numbers which are depicted on the comprehensive map and include the name of the land managing agency. If you require more information on specific locations, each agency is listed next.

**City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks:**

Phone: 303-441-3440

Website: [www.osmp.org](http://www.osmp.org)

**Boulder County Parks and Open Space:**

Phone: 303-441-3950

Website: [www.co.boulder.co.us](http://www.co.boulder.co.us)

**Eldorado Canyon State Park:**

Phone: 303-494-3943

Website: [www.coloradoparks.org](http://www.coloradoparks.org)

**National center for Atmospheric Research:**

Phone: 303-497-1000

Website: [www.ucar.ncar.edu](http://www.ucar.ncar.edu)

## **Accessibility Information**

Because the ADAAG are not mandated standards, and because weather, erosion and normal wear and tear can change the accessibility of a location, we've avoided identifying developed outdoor areas as "accessible" or "not accessible." Instead, we've provided information about the extent to which a location meets *minimum guidelines*. Five elements are considered when determining accessibility.

1. **Cross Slope** = Sideward (horizontal) slant of a trail or access route.
2. **Running Slope** = Forward incline/decline (vertical) slant of a trail or access route.
3. **Obstacles** = Any protruding object, natural or human-made.

**4. Surface Material** = Natural or human-made surface composition.

**5. Width** = How wide the trail or access route is.

You'll notice throughout the book that we refer to locations as:

**Trails:** Those non-paved surfaces of any length that may or may not have an end point feature attraction.

**Sites:** Those locations which may have access routes (surfaces of 0.25 miles or less which lead to a feature attraction) and developed or natural features, but which do not have trails. Scenic overlooks, picnic areas, and fishing piers are examples of sites.

Different guidelines apply depending on the classification of a location. See the appendix for chart of the ADAAG descriptions.

### **Difficulty Ratings**

Using the U.S.D.A. Forest Service's difficulty scale as a model, various aspects of trails and sites are described as follows:

**Easy** = Meets the most or all of the ADAAG. *Most* people who use wheelchairs should be able to use with little or no difficulty.

**Moderate** = Does not meet ADAAG, although an attempt was made to provide access. *Some* wheelchair users may find it difficult to maneuver.



**Difficult** = Constructed or natural barriers exist. *Many* wheelchair users may have difficulty.

**Most Difficult** = Difficult terrain or lack of usable features exist. *Most* wheelchair users will probably not be able to use.

***Warning!***

Trails may become more difficult or unusable due to ice, snow, mud, erosion, heavy use or human-made barriers. Use caution.



## Surface Materials

Trails and site usually have one or more of the following surfacing materials:

1. **Crusher Fines** – Grey or red, small flat shavings of andesite, limestone and/or shale mixed with soil hardener. Crusher fines is designed to settle into the soil and become hard packed base with some loose pieces on the surface. Excessive amounts can bog a wheelchair down, but overall this is currently the most desirable product on the market for developed natural areas due to its erosion resistance and practicality for multi-purpose use.
2. **Dirt/Road Base** – Because of different soil compositions, dirt trails can become muddy, uneven and prone to erosion. While dirt trails offer a natural look, they tend to be more challenging for those using mobility devices.
3. **Gravel** – Sometimes confused with crusher fines, gravel is a mixture of rounded and angular pea-sized to silver dollar sized stones and does not contain a surface hardening agent. Gravel is seldom used anymore, but you'll still find it in some areas where old dirt roads are used for trails. Gravel's soft surface presents bogging problems for wheelchair users. It also gets pushed around, making the surface uneven.
4. **Pavement** – pavement is rarely found on trails but is occasionally used on parts of access routes.

# Dogs and Wheelchair Users

## Dog Control

There are a few potential problems related to dogs while using a wheelchair. People using wheelchairs are in a sitting position, and therefore are more vulnerable to aggressive dogs. It is even hard to avoid playful and slobbery dogs. Each agency represented in this guide book has laws to protect citizens from unwanted attention from dogs. The three general dog classifications are:

1. No dogs allowed.
2. Dogs permitted only on a hand held leash.
3. Dogs on leash or under voice and sight control.

The *Voice and Sight Control Regulation* (City ordinance 6-1-12), stipulates that the owner must see their dog at all times, *and* the dog must respond to the owner's commands. It states that a dog must not "*charge, chase or display any aggression toward any person, or behave in a way that any person may find harassing or disturbing.*" If you don't want attention from a dog on the trail, let the owner know. It is their responsibility to follow the law. Most owners will happily oblige and keep the dog away from you. If you have any problems with dogs or dog owners, however, please notify the agency managing the trail you are on and/or other law enforcement.

## **Dog Excrement**

Dog excrement on the trail can be particularly unpleasant for wheelchair users. City Ordinance 6-1-14 requires the removal/disposal of pet excrement by the owner of the pet.

## **Plant and Animal Life of Boulder County**

There are several ecosystems in Boulder County. Some of the more common ecosystems that you will encounter on your outdoor escapades in Boulder County are grasslands, foothills shrublands, riparian areas, and Ponderosa pine/Douglas fir forests. Most of the wheelchair hikes included in this guide book take you through two or more of these systems.

### **Grasslands**

Grasslands are probably the most common ecosystem you will encounter. This includes both short and tall grass. Tall grass areas include blue-green patches of big bluestem grass (also known as “turkey foot” seedheads), Indian grass, and switch grass. The most prevalent accessible tall grass areas are along South Boulder Creek. Short grass can be found on just about every hike in Boulder County. The dominant short grasses of the area are blue grama and buffalo grass. Yucca, prickly pear cactus, rabbitbrush, sagebrush, and needle-and-thread grass are also common to this ecosystem. There are many native wildflowers as well, such as Blazing star, Blue flax, showy milkweed, wild rose, sunflowers, and many kinds of asters.

Many animals live in the grasslands or roam through it. Coyotes, badgers, red fox, white-tailed and mule deer, deer mice, cottontail rabbits, ground squirrels, and colonies of the black-tailed prairie dogs can be found in the grasslands. Birds such as the killdeer, western meadowlark, golden eagle, and various hawks, such as the red-tailed hawk (most common hawk in Boulder County), Swainson's hawk, and Ferruginous Hawk, can be seen on the grasslands of the plains.

### **Riparian areas**

Riparian areas including wetlands and streamside ecosystems are very abundant in Boulder County. Wetlands can be found on the White Rocks Trail, South Boulder Creek Trail, Pella Crossing, Lagerman Reservoir, Walden and Sawhill Ponds, Coot Lake, and Fairgrounds Lake. These trails are ideal for bird watchers as they offer a diversity of species. More than 200 species of birds have been seen at Sawhill Ponds alone. Various ducks and geese, great blue heron, northern harrier, and egrets can be seen in many of these wetland locations. Virginia rails, snipe, American bitterns, yellow-headed and red-winged black birds, and great horned owl are only some of the other birds that can also be seen. Red fox, deer, beaver, and muskrat can be found in the surrounding vegetation of many of the reservoirs and streams. Cottonwood trees are commonplace in the wetlands along with willow, box elder, and hackberry. Wild plum, hawthorn, and wax currants are common shrubs of the area.

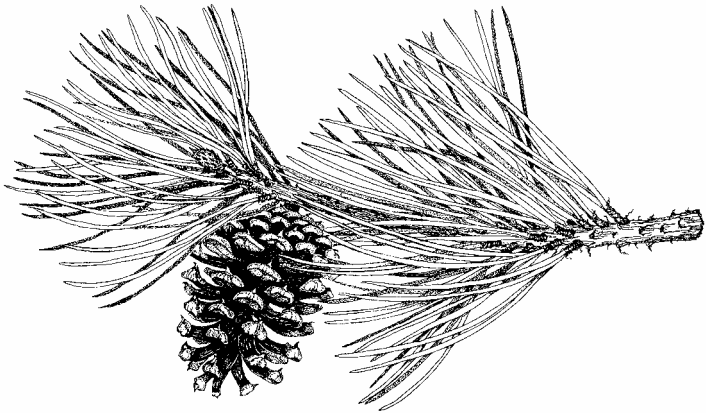
## **Shrublands**

Shrublands are typically found in the foothills as a transition between the grasslands of the plains and the forests of the mountains. Trails and sites in this ecosystem include Centennial Trail, and the beginning of the Mesa Trail – South. Plants common to the area are mountain mahogany, sagebrush, bitterbrush, rabbitbrush, and wild plum. Hawthorn, three-leaf sumac, and chokecherry also grow in this ecosystem. Black bear, red foxes, mountain lions, and coyotes frequent shrublands. Colorado chipmunk, deer, and cottontail rabbits can also be found in this ecosystem. Spotted towhee, yellow-breasted chat, warbler, red-tailed hawk, and other birds thrive in the shrublands.

## **Ponderosa pine/Douglas fir forests**

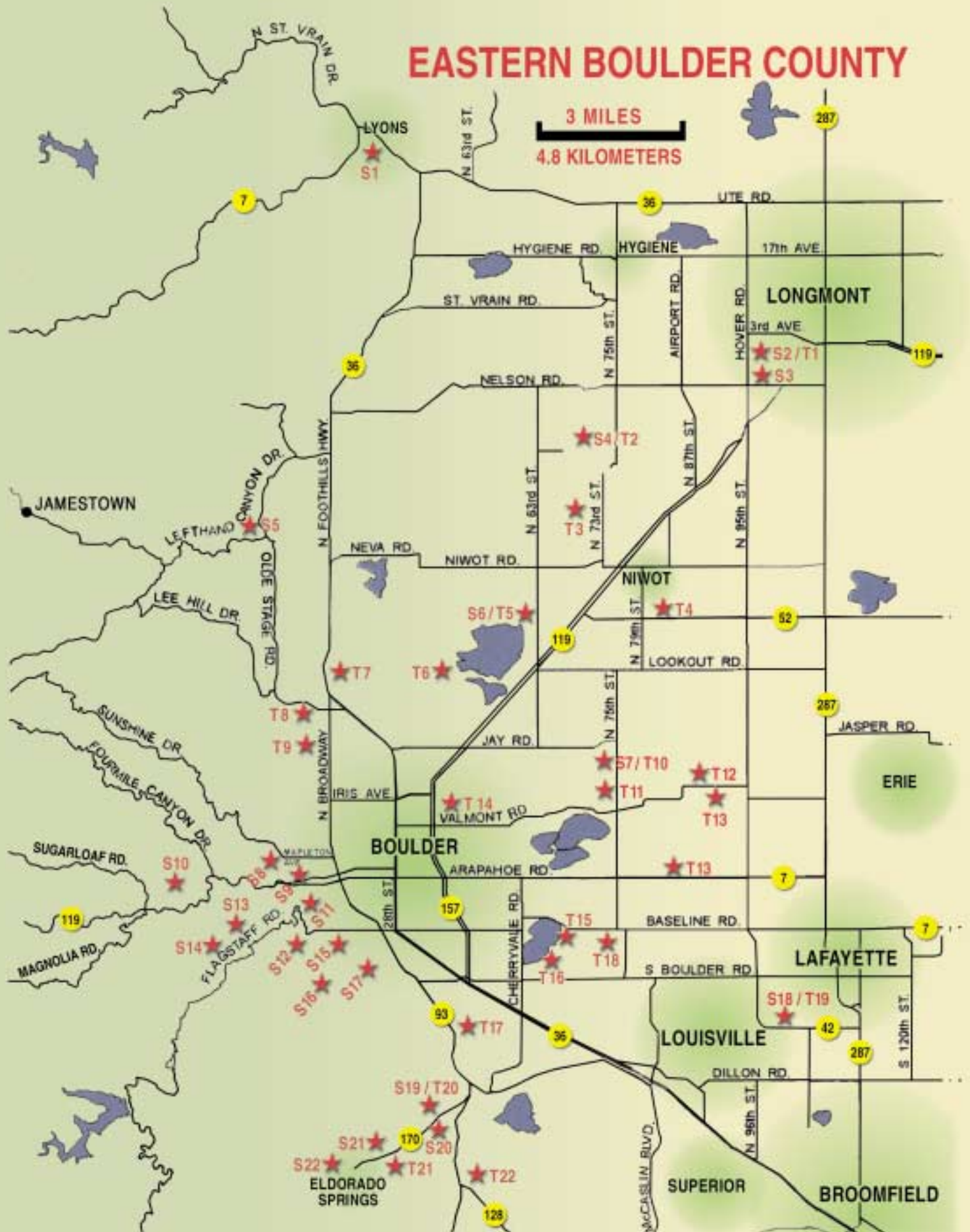
The Ponderosa pine/Douglas fir forest ecosystem is the dominant forest type around Boulder. It is located in the foothills near shrublands and grasslands. Trails and sites such as Betasso Preserve, Panarama Point, Lost Gulch, and Fowler Trail are in this ecosystem. Typical mammals of this forest group include the Abert's squirrel, chikarees, and porcupine. Pygmy nuthatches, solitary vireos, and flammulated owls are birds common to the Ponderosa pine/Douglas fir forest. Many other birds can also be seen, including Cooper's hawk, hermit thrushes, blue grouse, great horned owl, meadowlark, and red crossbills. The Abert's squirrel is probably the most distinctive creature in this forest. This grayish black tassel-eared squirrel lives exclusively in ponderosa pine forest as it only feeds on Ponderosa pines. Vegetation in the ecosystem includes Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, Rocky Mountain juniper, and wax currant. Yucca,

blue grama, and sun sedge are also abundant. Kinnikinnik, bitterbrush, and mountain mahogany can be found in this ecosystem as well. Wildflowers include common wild geranium, sulfur flower, miner's candle, and pasque flower.



# EASTERN BOULDER COUNTY

3 MILES  
4.8 KILOMETERS





**HALL RANCH – Site (S – 1)/Trails**  
(Trails not included in User Guide)  
Boulder County Parks and Open Space

<b>Rating:</b>	easy-moderate
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines, road base, dirt
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 4' Min: 32"
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 1% Max: 2%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 2-5% Max: 9%
<b>Picnic:</b>	4 tables (moderate-difficult)
<b>Other users:</b>	bikes, horses, llamas (no dogs allowed)
<b>Parking:</b>	3 designated spots plus general parking
<b>Structures:</b>	picnic shelter/tables (difficult)
<b>Restroom:</b>	1 set (easy)
<b>Location:</b>	Hall Ranch is located off of Hwy. 7, 0.5 miles west of Lyons.

**Description**

The trailhead for several trails, Hall Ranch has two loop parking lots, a sizable picnic shelter, and a restroom which meets ADA standards. All routes are made of crusher fines and there is a kiosk at both the upper and lower lots. Vegetation is typical foothills Ponderosa pine forest and grassland. There are no trees until you get on the trail. Both lots are made of hard-packed road base and spaces are divided by timbers. The lower lot, which is the first of the two, has one designated space located about 40' (5% grade)

from the connector route that leads to the upper lot and Nighthawk Trail. The connector route is 48" wide and has up to a 7% grade. The upper lot, which generally has a 3% grade or less except for a short section of 9%, has two designated spaces. One is near the shelter and the other is nearer to the restroom and trailhead. There are also several spaces for trailer parking. From parking to the shelter is about a 50' path that's mostly 48" wide with a section that's 32". The grade is a bit steep, up to 9%. Four tables and a grill are under the shelter with some very tight clearance areas. At the four corners it's as narrow as 20", between the tables it's 22" and from the edge of the floor to the ends of the tables is 36". If you're using a wheelchair, you'll probably only be able to wheel up to the ends of the first two tables. Getting to the grill on the opposite side would be quite a feat. The tables are chained down, though, so you might be able to move them slightly. There are no table extensions. The distance from the shelter to the restroom is about 300'. The other designated space is close to the restroom which has a men's and women's side and meets ADA standards. The short path to it is 48" wide and has up to a 3% grade. The same path continues on to the Nighthawk and Bitterbrush trails (not included in User Guide). The Nighthawk Trail is packed dirt and about four miles long. The first 0.25 miles may be negotiable if you can manage a 50' section with about a 12% grade. Otherwise the first part has a 3-6% grade and is about 48" wide. From there on the trail becomes very rocky and has outcroppings.

## **FAIRGROUNDS LAKE**

### **Site (S-2)/Trail (T-1)**

(See description in Trail section)

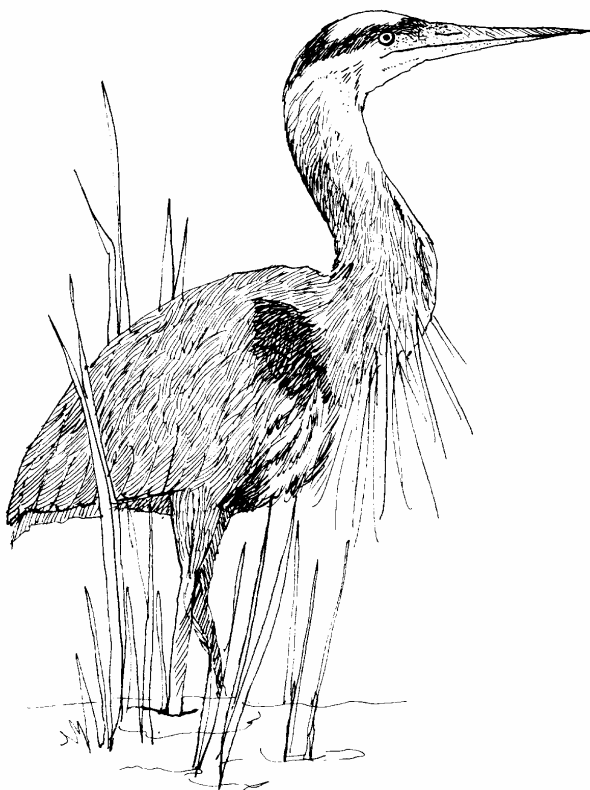
Boulder County Parks and Open Space

<b>Rating:</b>	easy-difficult
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines, concrete
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 7' Min: 7'
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 1% Max: 10% for 3'
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 2% Max: 5%
<b>Picnic:</b>	2 tables (difficult)
<b>Other Users:</b>	anglers, dogs on leash
<b>Parking:</b>	2 designated spots plus general parking
<b>Structures:</b>	none
<b>Restrooms:</b>	yes, at nearby Roger's Grove
<b>Location:</b>	Fairgrounds Lake is off of Boston Ave. between Hover Rd. and Sunset St. at the Boulder County Fairgrounds Park in Longmont.

### **Description**

Fairgrounds Lake offers a loop trail about 0.75 miles long. Most of the crusher fines and concrete trail has less than a 2% grade except for an 80' section at 5%. What makes this otherwise easy trail difficult is a very short section that has a cross slope of 10%. Watch out for tipping over sideways. Also, there are several areas on the trail where puddles and mud occur in wet weather. The parking lot has two designated spaces

and provides a connection to the St. Vrain Greenway which is a concrete path. There are picnic tables near the parking lot, but they do not have clear paths to them. Some may be able to negotiate over grass. Offering little shade, the area is generally used for viewing the mountains, fishing, bird watching and walking. There is no clear access to the shoreline for wheelchair users. Restrooms are located at Rogers Grove, north of Fairgrounds Lake.



**CATTAIL POND – Site (S-3)**  
Boulder County Parks and Open Space

<b>Rating:</b>	easy
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 3' Min: 12" (on secondary path)
<b>Cross Slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 1%
<b>Picnic:</b>	none
<b>Other users:</b>	children's fishing only, dogs on leash
<b>Parking:</b>	general parking with no designated spots
<b>Structures:</b>	none
<b>Location:</b>	Cattail Pond is adjacent to Fairgrounds Lake off of Boston Ave. between Hover Rd. and Sunset St. at the Boulder County Fairgrounds in Longmont.

**Description**

Less maintained than Fairgrounds Lake, the main path at Cattail Pond is nearly flat, 36" wide, and made of crusher fines but is bumpy with weeds growing through it. There is a single track foot path that extends around the pond, but the portion that is 36" follows along the parking area only. There is no shade at this site and no amenities except for the facilities at Fairgrounds Park. There are no designated parking spaces; the lot is flat but bumpy. Fishing is open only to people under 16 years old only.

## **LAGERMAN RESERVOIR**

### **Site (S-4)/Trail (T-2)**

(See description in Trail section)

Boulder County Parks and Open Space

<b>Rating:</b>	moderate
<b>Surface:</b>	road base, dirt, gravel
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 8' Min: 18"
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 1%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 1% Max: 16%
<b>Picnic:</b>	6 tables (moderate-difficult)
<b>Other users:</b>	anglers, boats, dogs on leash
<b>Parking:</b>	general parking with no designated spots
<b>Structures:</b>	picnic shelters/tables, pier (difficult)
<b>Restroom:</b>	1 set (moderate-difficult)
<b>Location:</b>	Lagerman Reservoir is located on Pike Rd. off of 73 <sup>rd</sup> St. west of Hwy. 119 between Boulder and Longmont. Head west on Niwot Rd. then north on 73 <sup>rd</sup> St. and west on Pike Rd.

### **Description**

Lagerman Reservoir is a point of access for boating and fishing. Entering by way of the dirt service road, the entire site (except for the boat ramp and pier) has a 0-1% grade. All walking surfaces are packed road base, dirt or a combination of dirt and gravel. There is a restroom adjacent to the parking lot that has not

been upgraded yet, but is somewhat usable and manageable to get to, even though the path is only about 18" wide. There are no trees in the area and vegetation consists of short grasses making passage feasible but rough. The entryway is 45" wide and is bordered by a fence. Clearance through the doorway is 32" and there are two hand rails in both the men's and women's side, but the opening force required to open the doors (10 lbs) well exceeds the guidelines (5 lbs). On the reservoir side of the parking lot, there are several openings in the fence border that have ample clearance for a wheelchair. The service road divides the parking lot from the picnic and boating area. There are no groomed paths leading to the three picnic tables and one grill, but again, terrain is a 0% grade and grassy. There is one 22" high non-rotating grill in this area. The boat ramp and pier access lies between the previously mentioned picnic area and another sheltered picnic area. The ramp has at least a 16% grade and the pier has no railing or raised edge around it. Use caution! The shelter, which has a 1-2" drop-off around its concrete floor, has a non-rotating grill and two covered tables. There is a third uncovered table adjacent to the shelter. Maneuvering space under the shelter is somewhat restricted but may be manageable. There is a trail that goes around the reservoir. (See description in the Trail section.)

**BUCKINGHAM PARK – Site (S-5)**  
City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

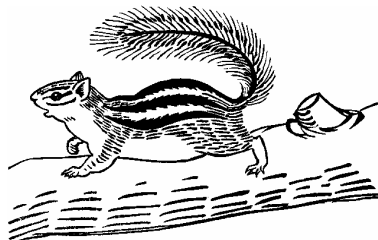
<b>Rating:</b>	moderate-difficult
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines, dirt
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 18” Min: 10”
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 1% Max: 3%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 6% Max: 10%
<b>Picnic:</b>	9 tables and grills (moderate-difficult)
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs (voice/sight control), anglers
<b>Parking:</b>	general parking with no designated spots
<b>Structures:</b>	none
<b>Restrooms:</b>	1 set (moderate-difficult)
<b>Location:</b>	Buckingham Park is located at the intersection of Left Hand Canyon Rd. and Old Stage Rd. north of Boulder and west of Hwy. 36.

**Description**

Buckingham Park offers several creek-side picnic tables with grills. Although there are no designated accessible spaces, there is ample flat parking with a dirt and gravel base. (Watch out for significant puddling in wet weather.) The restroom is approximately 30’ from the parking lot and 50’ from the nearest picnic table. The men’s room has a wind barrier fence around it which makes passage possible only on the far side if using a wheelchair. The women’s room has no fence around it, but the narrow



walking surface with a 12" drop off alongside the doorway would require considerable caution for those using wheelchairs. There are many access routes to picnic tables at this site, and although the routes are narrower than most wheelchairs, some are still passable. The paths have surfaces comprised of crusher fines and uneven hard-packed dirt with some small embedded rocks. Maximum grade segments are 10% for up to 20' and minimum grades are 1%. The average grade is 2-7%. All of the picnic tables have concrete supports and do not have extensions on them. Grills are not specifically designed to be accessible, but may be usable. Most of the plant life consists of grasses, which is why passage is still possible over narrow paths. There are some trees and shrubs in the southwest portion of the park along the creek, and although picturesque in the late afternoon and early evening, they are insufficient for providing shade over the picnic tables. Left Hand Canyon Rd. borders the park on the east and south sides of the park. Accessibility improvements to the picnic area and restrooms are planned for 2002.



## **COOT LAKE – Site (S-6)/Trail (T-5)**

(See description in Trail section)

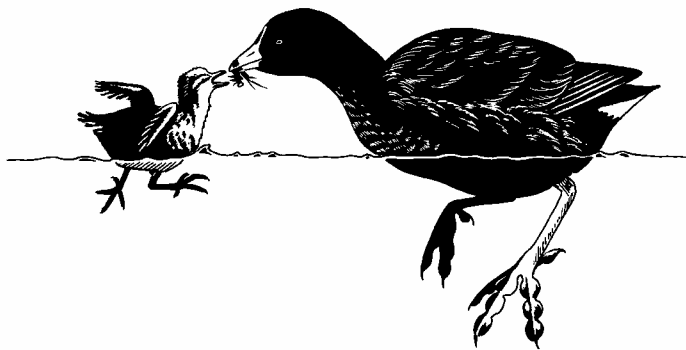
City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

<b>Rating:</b>	easy-difficult
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher-fines, dirt, wood
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 4' Min: 3'
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 1% Max: 2%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 3% Max: 15%
<b>Picnic:</b>	4 tables (moderate-difficult)
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs (voice/sight control), anglers
<b>Parking:</b>	general parking with one designated spot
<b>Structures:</b>	fishing pier (easy)
<b>Restrooms:</b>	1 set (easy)
<b>Location:</b>	Coot Lake is on 63 <sup>rd</sup> St. just north of Hwy. 119 adjacent to the Boulder Reservoir north of Boulder.

### **Description**

Coot Lake connects with the Boulder Reservoir service road and offers a fishing pier, restrooms, picnic tables and hiking possibilities in a scenic wetland habitat. The parking lot, which has one designated space, is flat and comprised of packed dirt and gravel. It accommodates about 10 cars and is often full since its access to the reservoir makes it a runner's haven. The fishing pier is directly in front of parking and meets the ADAAG. To the left is a restroom that also meets the ADAAG. Farther left and across a wooden foot bridge

are several picnic tables ranging in difficulty from moderate to difficult that are set away from the lake and underneath a grove of shade trees. You can also connect with the reservoir service road about 500' away. As you cross the bridge, be careful of tipping forward or backward if you use a wheelchair. It has about a 3' incline and decline with a 15% grade. It's 48" wide and does not have any barrier on the sides. Otherwise the grade in this section of the route is 0-3% with a surface of crusher fines. To get to the picnic tables previously mentioned, you would need to negotiate single track paths through tall grass. From the parking lot to the right, for a couple hundred feet, is a route along the lake perimeter with 0% grade, also made of crusher fines. The entire access route at this site is approximately 48" wide with a 0-2% cross slope. More information about the trail continuing in both directions is available in the Trail section.



## **WALDEN PONDS WILDLIFE HABITAT**

### **Site (S – 7)/Trail (T – 10)**

(See description in Trail section)

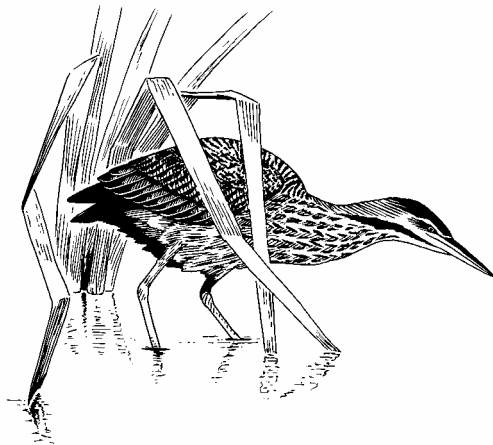
Boulder County Parks and Open Space

<b>Rating:</b>	easy
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines, dirt
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 6' Min: 4'
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 2%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 0-4% Max: 16%
<b>Picnic:</b>	6 tables (easy)
<b>Other users:</b>	anglers, birders, dogs on leash
<b>Parking:</b>	4 designated spots plus general parking
<b>Structures:</b>	2 picnic shelters/tables (easy), fishing pier (easy), boardwalk (easy)
<b>Restroom:</b>	1 set (easy)
<b>Location:</b>	WPWH is located off of 75 <sup>th</sup> St. on Walden Pond Rd. between Jay Rd. and Valmont Rd.

### **Description**

Walden Ponds Wildlife habitat is a conglomerate of ponds, lakes and marshes that are actually right beside Sawhill Ponds (See description in Trail section). The area attracts many birders and naturalists as this wetland habitat is home to a wide variety of plants and animals. The first pond you come to, Picnic Pond, has two designated dirt parking spaces, a fishing pier and

restrooms that meet the ADAAG. Boulder County residents with permanent disabilities and seniors 65 and over may fish with a special permit (\$5 annually) and a Colorado State fishing license. Check the information kiosks for special fishing regulations. Like all the other ponds in the area, Picnic Pond has a single track trail encircling it with minimal grade changes. A wide, crusher fines path and the access road connect Picnic Pond to the next body of water you'll come to, Cottonwood Marsh. About 0.25 miles farther west and more centrally located, Cottonwood Marsh is the largest in the area. Aside from having a large, road base parking lot which includes two designated spaces, this area has several desirable features, including a small and a large picnic shelter with several tables and a grill, a restroom, and a boardwalk that extends into the marsh. These features meet the ADAAG and are connected by wide, low grade crusher fines paths. (See description of the Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat Trails in the Trail section.)



## FOOTHILLS-CENTENNIAL PARK

### Site (S – 8)

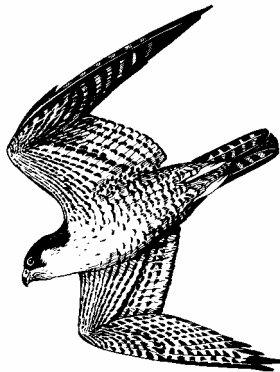
City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

<b>Rating:</b>	easy-moderate
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 4' Min: 2'
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 1% Max: 2%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 4% Max: 7%
<b>Picnic:</b>	6 tables, 3 grills (moderate)
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs (voice/sight control)
<b>Parking:</b>	general parking with no designated spaces
<b>Structures:</b>	none
<b>Restrooms:</b>	none
<b>Location:</b>	The park is located at the west end of Mapleton Ave. which is also the mouth of Sunshine Canyon Rd. west of Broadway in Boulder.

### Description

Foothills-Centennial Park offers a lovely roadside picnicking area with a view of the southern rocks of Mt. Sanitas. It is also the north trailhead for Red Rocks Trail. There are four picnicking areas, three of which have grills that are interconnected with short paths 24"-48" wide made of crusher fines. Because the adjacent surface is grass, passage over the narrow spots is quite feasible. The paved parking lot does not have designated accessible spaces, but has room for

about 15 cars with a grade of 0-2%. Between the parking lot and the picnic sites there is a wooden foot bridge with railings that is wide enough for a wheelchair but it does not have raised edges along the base sides of the bridge. The distance from parking to the site is approximately 15'. None of the concrete-based picnic tables have extensions on them but they do have some maneuvering space. Two of the four picnic areas have two tables each. The grills have a crusher fines base around them and are bordered by inlaid logs which are nearly flush with the ground. All sites have both shade and exposure to the sun. While the access routes to the picnic tables have a 1-4% grade, the other interconnecting paths go up to a 7% grade. If you want a serious challenge, follow the access route east to the fire road which is the beginning of Red Rocks Trail. It's about a 50' long 16% grade ascent on rutted dirt with some gravel to a more expansive view of the mountains. There are restrooms across the street and down the road at the Mt. Sanitas trailhead, but the only access is by stairs. Accessibility improvements to the picnic tables are planned for 2000.



## **SETTLER'S PARK – Site (S – 9)**

### **City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks**

<b>Rating:</b>	easy-moderate
<b>Surface:</b>	concrete, dirt, crusher fines
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 6' Min: 4'
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 3%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 5% Max: 10%
<b>Picnic:</b>	4 tables (easy)
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs (voice/sight control), anyone using the bike/pedestrian path
<b>Parking:</b>	1 designated spot plus general parking
<b>Structures:</b>	none
<b>Restrooms:</b>	none (1 set of multiple restrooms located approximately 0.25 miles north at Eben G. Fine Park)
<b>Location:</b>	Settler's Park is at the junction of Canyon Blvd. and Pearl Street at the mouth of the Boulder Canyon west of Broadway in Boulder.

### **Description**

Settler's Park offers four picnic tables with the extensions at the southern trailhead for Red Rocks Trail and lies adjacent to a Boulder Creek Bike/Pedestrian connector path. It features large trees which shade most of the site and smaller trees which give it a private feeling. The 0-1% paved parking lot has one designated accessible parking space plus about 15



regular spaces. Although there is a designated space, it is not well designed for access to the sidewalk. The curb cut is located directly in front of the parking space, making it necessary to leave some of the vehicle protruding into the driving space of the lot. The access route from parking to the sites is concrete and includes a bridge with a grade of 8% for 30' followed by a section at a 10% grade, which leads to the bike/pedestrian path. Once on the bike path, the grade ranges from 2-5% within a 30' distance. The distance from parking to the site is approximately 50'. The easternmost picnic table is set on grass. The remaining two sites have a total of three tables with extensions and have a generous amount of 0-2% grade maneuvering space. Surfacing is mostly dirt with a bit of pea gravel. There are no restrooms or grills but it's a great place to bring a sack lunch. There is also a bike rack at the picnic site. If you're feeling spunky and strong you may be able to navigate some of the trail which can be accessed from the westernmost picnic site. You could also head west on the bike path to Eben G. Fine park which offers a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities and an accessible restroom.

**BETASSO PRESERVE – Site (S – 10)/Trail**  
(Canyon Loop Trail not included in User Guide)  
Boulder County Parks and Open Space

<b>Rating:</b>	easy-most difficult
<b>Surface:</b>	road base, dirt, gravel
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 10' Min: 20"
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 2%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 2% at lower lot, 7% at upper lot Max: 18% at lower lot, 8% at upper lot
<b>Picnic:</b>	5 tables, 1 grill at lower lot (easy) 3 tables at upper lot (difficult)
<b>Other users:</b>	bikes, dogs on leash
<b>Parking:</b>	2 designated spots plus general parking at lower lot, general parking only at upper lot
<b>Structures:</b>	picnic shelter/tables, grill
<b>Restroom:</b>	1 set (moderate)
<b>Location:</b>	Betasso Preserve is located off of Sugarloaf Rd. near Boulder Canyon Rd. and is the trailhead and picnic site for the Canyon Loop Trail.

**Description**

There are two loop parking areas at Betasso Preserve, both made of packed dirt and gravel. The lower area offers sheltered and unsheltered picnicking opportunities, as well as a restroom. There are two designated parking spaces at the access point to the

shelter and restroom. The route to the shelter has less than a 2% grade and is plenty wide. The shelter can be reserved by calling 303-678-6200. It covers three chained, yet somewhat movable picnic tables and a grill. There are two more tables in the grass outside of the shelter that can be picked up and moved. The concrete floor of the shelter is ½-1" higher than the ground surface, and the grill is 30" off the floor and has a cover requiring 14 lbs. of force to lift. It has 38" of clear space on three sides. The restroom, although structurally meeting ADA standards, is somewhat challenging to get to. From the parking lot, it is 225' down a 10' wide path with an 8% grade. There is another access route to the restroom from the shelter, but you would have to descend on a 12% grade shorter, single track path. If you can manage either of the routes and the 10 lbs. of force necessary to open the door, you're set. Just beyond the restroom is the trailhead. From the lower lot to the upper lot is a 1/8 mile incline. At that lot there are several scattered, standard wooden picnic tables and open grills but no developed routes to them and no designated parking. There is another access route to the trail, though, that is 20-30" wide, has a 7-8% grade and is about 500' long. Both areas offer little shade other than the shelter.

## **PANORAMA POINT – Site (S – 11)**

### **City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks**

<b>Rating:</b>	easy-moderate
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines, wood
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 6' Min: 5'
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 2%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 7% Max: 10%
<b>Picnic:</b>	3 tables (easy), 1 grill (easy)
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs (voice/sight control)
<b>Parking:</b>	1 designated spot plus general parking
<b>Structures:</b>	scenic overlook (easy)
<b>Restrooms:</b>	1 set (most difficult) across the road in the Halfway House Historic Site
<b>Location:</b>	Panorama Point is on Flagstaff Rd. near the Flagstaff House Restaurant west of Broadway in Boulder.

### **Description**

Renovated in the summer of 1999, Panorama Point provides a spectacular view of Boulder and beyond. Because of the view and its convenient location adjacent to Flagstaff Rd. about 0.75 miles up from Chatauqua Park, the site attracts many tourists and locals. New additions include three attractive picnic sites. All tables are pedestal style and two of the sites have grills and plenty of shade. Located 33'-125' from parking, each of these new additions is designed to meet minimum accessibility guidelines. The scenic

overlook has been reconstructed to include a sizeable wooden, raised-edge platform with a railing that has a partially cut-out section so that those using wheelchairs can have an unobstructed view. There is also a bench with back support on the platform. Parking (1-3%) is limited to 11 parallel spaces plus one designated accessible space. There is only one lane of traffic in a one way, clockwise parking circle, so exercise caution when exiting and entering your vehicle. Made of crusher fines, the access route connecting the picnic area to the overlook has an average running slope of the 6-8% with a maximum grade segment of 8% for 66'.



**HALFWAY HOUSE – Site (S – 12)**  
City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

<b>Rating:</b>	easy-moderate
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines, inlaid sandstone
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 4' Min: 4'
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 1% Max: 3%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 1-6% Max: 7%
<b>Picnic:</b>	2 tables, 1 grill (easy-moderate)
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs (voice/sight control), special events
<b>Parking:</b>	1 designated spot plus general parking
<b>Structures:</b>	shelter with patio
<b>Restrooms:</b>	1 set (most difficult)
<b>Location:</b>	Halfway House is on Flagstaff Rd. Directly across from the Flagstaff House Restaurant west of Broadway in Boulder.

**Description**

This unique stone shelter is just up the hill from Panorama Point and across the road from the Flagstaff House restaurant and can be reserved for special events by calling 303-441-3440 or using the website [osmp.org](http://osmp.org). Although the building has steps at its front door, the rest of the area has a number of desirable qualities since it underwent significant accessibility upgrades in the summer of 1995. The roadside paved parking lot has one designated space among 12 others

on a slight slope. There is a lovely, scenic loop path about 400' long made of crusher fines that connects the shelter to the parking lot. On the western end near parking there is a shaded picnic table (the only shade at this site) and a bench. The path is bordered with timbers and maintains a minimum width of 4'6" with an average grade of 6%. Although the shelter faces south, it's possible to get a 360 degree view. The shelter features a large stone patio with a stone wall surrounding it. There is a large cut out section facing south and portions of the wall have built-in stone benches facing north. Unfortunately, the only way into the stone shelter building is via steps. The interior has a number of picnic tables and a raised platform with a fireplace and is only opened by request for special events. Outside on the east of the building is a sizable picnic area with a double 2' high grill, a picnic table and a pinwheel style table that seats about 18 people. There are no table extensions at this time, but it's possible to pull up to the ends using a wheelchair. The only shade you'll get over the picnic area is in the late afternoon. The drawback to this unique site is that getting to and using the restroom is a double black diamond experience. It's about 75 yards away across a steep, single track trail and has no accessibility features. Accessibility improvements to the picnic tables and grill are planned for 2000.

## **FLAGSTAFF SUMMIT AREA – (Site – 13)**

(see narrative for difficulty ratings)

City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

### **Overview:**

Due to the numerous sites on Flagstaff Summit, please see narratives for specific feature information. The turnoff leading to the summit area is located 3.2 miles up Flagstaff Rd. The summit area features a number of sites including scenic overlooks, picnic and assembly areas, a nature center, a drinking water hydrant, and an historic amphitheater. Many of the sites can be reserved for special events by calling 303-441-3440 or visiting the City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks website. Flagstaff Summit Rd. (the access road to the site) is open from May 1 through October 31. Because the area has so many features, it's described in this book beginning with the westernmost site and progressing to the easternmost site. All of the parking areas and roads are paved.

### **1. Artist Point (moderate-difficult)**

This westernmost site is about 30' from parking and has a rocky, dirt path with a narrow section of 33" leading to two picnic table with no extensions and a grill. It's a beautiful spot nestled among evergreen trees with a great view of the mountains. Accessibility improvements to the picnic table are planned for 2000.

### **2. Picnic pull off (moderate)**

Adjacent to the road is a dirt-pull off providing access to a shaded picnic table with an extension on it. The area is nearly level but has limited maneuvering space.



### **3. Picnic pull-off and restroom (moderate-difficult)**

This site is near a small parking lot with one designated space. There are two picnic tables with no extensions and a grill on a slightly sloped soft dirt surface. The dirt path connecting it to parking is about 50' long and begins with a 15' section of about a 9% grade. The parking area is bordered by large rocks and boulders but there is enough space at one point for a wheelchair to pass through, although the cross slope is about 8%. There is also a restroom at this parking area which is very challenging due to steep, rough terrain, a raised concrete entry platform that is too small to accommodate a wheelchair, very heavy doors with knobs, and narrow passage. Those who use walkers or canes may find it usable.

### **4. Wood Shelter/large picnic area (easy-moderate)**

This site can be reserved for special events. From the same parking lot and path access as the picnic pull-off (above), there is a dirt/pine needle route with a grade of 4-6%. This path is about 120' long and leads to a large outdoor picnic area and shelter with a concrete floor and no walls. Underneath the shelter is one picnic table and beside the shelter is a pinwheel style picnic table, and a double long table and an eight person table. None of them have extensions but are quite usable. The entire surface is dirt with a gentle slope. At the eastern end of this site is another single track access route (most difficult) leading to a different, smaller parking lot. Accessibility improvements to the picnic tables are planned for 2000. Improvements to the access route are planned for 2001.

### **5. Stone Shelter/Assembly Area (moderate-difficult)**

This site can be reserved for special events. Across the road from the eastern lot for the Wood Shelter is the Stone Shelter and assembly area. This small shelter has steps leading to its narrow entries and contains two picnic tables with minimal room for maneuvering. Adjacent to the shelter, however, is a very large, exposed assembly area with many long rows of concrete based picnic tables. None have extensions. The whole area has a packed dirt base on a slope of 2-6%. Small embedded rocks and roots present some negotiating challenges, but many may find it manageable. This site offers nearly a 360 degree view.

### **6. Main Parking lot (easy-moderate)**

Although there are no designated spaces in this lot, there are ample regular spaces available over a 0-2% slope. At the eastern end of the lot is a viewing bench (moderate) which faces Boulder. This main lot is connected to a loop drive which begins across the road at the Nature Center.

### **7. Flagstaff Nature Center/Hand pump water well (easy)**

These two sites have recently undergone accessibility upgrades, bringing both of them up to minimum guideline standards and the Nature Center meets ADA structural standards as well. The drinking water pump is positioned in the middle of a level concrete platform accessible from the road. A few feet away is the access route to the Nature Center which is made of crusher fines and gently slopes to the front porch. The

interior is one level and displays educational exhibits and information on local wildlife, the environment and human impact. A new back porch has recently been added which faces southwest. (Call 303-441-3440 for hours of operation.) Beside the Nature Center to the east is a small parking lot with one designated space.

#### **8. Flagstaff Nature Center picnic area (moderate-difficult)**

About 40' south of the Nature Center parking lot are two picnic tables, one with an extension. The rough dirt path to get there has a grade ranging from 3-8%. Beware of embedded rocks, exposed roots and limited clear space around tables. There are quite a few trees at this site which make it desirable for shade.

#### **9. East Picnic Area/Restroom (easy)**

About 150' from the Flagstaff Nature Center is a great picnic area on the left side of the road and a restroom on the right that recently was upgraded to meet ADA structural standards. There is a small parking lot with one designated space next to the access route to the restroom. The picnic area features two tables with extensions on them, positioned to get a great view while being shaded. The soft dirt surface provides ample maneuvering space. The access route to the restroom on the other side of the road is about 50' long, has a grade of 2-7% and is at least 48" wide. The mixed gender, vault-style accessible restroom has a generous amount of clear space.

#### **10. Flagstaff Summit Amphitheater (difficult-most difficult)**

The easternmost feature of Flagstaff Summit, and also the main attraction, is the amphitheater. Designated a

historic site, the amphitheater was built with sandstone and seats more than 300 people facing east. Often used for weddings and Open Space and Mountain Parks educational presentations, the amphitheater can be reserved for special events. Although the access route to the amphitheater has a wide, crusher fines base it has a very steep and tight switchback section 22' long with a 14% grade, which puts it in the category of very difficult. If you can manage that portion, the rest of the short route has an easy 5% grade. While stone steps down to the stage are a barrier for wheelchair users, there is a spacious viewing section at the top level of seating. The short turn off from the access route leading to the viewing area is packed dirt and has a 3' section where the cross slope is about 10%. Nearly the entire amphitheater is exposed to the sun until late afternoon. There are two designated parking spaces among over 15 regular spaces on a slightly sloped surface. Accessibility improvements are planned for 2001.



## **LOST GULCH – (S – 14)**

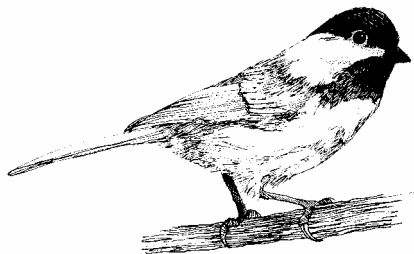
### **City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks**

<b>Rating:</b>	easy-most difficult
<b>Surface:</b>	dirt, crusher fines, wood
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 4 ½' Min: 4'
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 1% Max: 2%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 6% Max: 7%
<b>Picnic:</b>	3 tables (moderate-most difficult)
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs (voice /sight control)
<b>Parking:</b>	general, unmarked parking with no designated spots
<b>Structures:</b>	scenic overlook
<b>Restrooms:</b>	none
<b>Location:</b>	Lost Gulch is approximately 4.4 miles up from the base of Flagstaff Rd. west of Broadway in Boulder.

### **Description**

Lost Gulch is a scenic overlook and picnic area located about 4.4 miles up Flagstaff Rd. and has diverse challenge levels. The entire parking lot has a cross slope ranging from 3-5%, has eroded packed dirt surface and no defined parking spaces. A scenic overlook deck was built in 1998 facing northwest that meets ADA structural specifications. It has a spectacular view of the Continental Divide and is less visited than Flagstaff Summit if you are trying to avoid crowds. The deck is about 65' from the least

sloped parking area (west end) and the path to it is a crusher fines base at least 4'6" wide with a grade less than 6%. The wooden deck has a 3'4" railing around it with no cut out section, so an unobstructed view may or may not be possible depending on your wheelchair height. It also has a 3" raised edge at the bottom so your wheels won't roll over the edge. There is another route to the east that connects with another portion of the parking lot and another steeper route to an east-facing viewing bench. It's about 95' to the lot with a 5% grade and another 100' with a 5-8% grade and crusher fines/dirt surface to the other viewing area. That east facing bench has a moderate amount of clearance around it and is reasonably level, but it is embedded with many rocks. Just to the south of the bench is another most difficult route leading to two picnic tables. At the east end of the parking lot there is a 60' crusher fines access route with a 7% grade leading to another standard picnic table. The table pad is about 20' off the route and has up to a 10% grade. This table doesn't have much of a view, but it is shady.



## **CHAUTAUQUA RANGER COTTAGE**

### **Site (S – 15)/Structure**

City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

<b>Rating:</b>	easy
<b>Surface:</b>	pavement, wood
<b>Parking:</b>	2 designated spots plus general parking
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs (voice/sight control)
<b>Structures:</b>	visitor center/ranger cottage
<b>Restrooms:</b>	1 (easy)
<b>Location:</b>	The park is located on Baseline Rd. across from 9 <sup>th</sup> St. west of Broadway in Boulder.

### **Description**

The Chautauqua Ranger Cottage is the hub of Open Space and Mountain Parks activity and information. The cottage itself has a wheelchair ramp that enables access to the easy restroom and visitor center. There are two designated parking spaces among dozens of others in the main paved parking lot, but it is somewhat sloped with about a 3% grade.

**BLUEBELL SHELTER – Site (S – 16)**  
City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

<b>Rating:</b>	easy
<b>Surface:</b>	dirt, crusher fines, concrete
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: area is open Min: 4'
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 0%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 4% (not including restroom area)
<b>Picnic:</b>	3 tables, 1 grill, fireplace (easy-moderate)
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs (voice/sight control), special events
<b>Parking:</b>	see location information
<b>Structures:</b>	shelter, amphitheater, ADA ramp to shelter and picnic area
<b>Restrooms:</b>	1 set approximately 75 yards away (moderate-difficult)
<b>Location:</b>	Bluebell Shelter is located about 0.5 miles up the fire road from Chatauqua Ranger Cottage on Baseline Rd. west of Broadway in Boulder. If you cannot get there with human power, you may obtain a special vehicle permit at the Ranger Cottage with 1) physician documentation of disability and 2) a vehicle placard.



## **Description**

Bluebell Shelter offers great views of the Flatirons and Boulder and can be reserved for special events by calling 303-441-3440 or using the OSMF website for information. Getting there on foot or manually would be extremely challenging due to the consistent steep grade and rough pavement/road base. The shelter has a wheelchair ramp with railings leading to a semi-enclosed stone shelter with concrete floor, working fireplace, built-in stone sitting ledge, and a movable picnic table with no extension. Contiguous to the shelter is a large, crusher fines platform picnic area with two tables (no extensions) and a double grill (2' base). Timbers border the platform, which has a drop-off at least 18" all the way around. Beside the shelter is a native plant garden, a tri-level amphitheater with sandstone seating, and stairs leading to two scenic benches and trails (very difficult). The only other way to get up to that area is by way of the fire road which is very rutted, steep and composed of packed dirt and loose rocks. The nearest restroom (standard vault style) is about 225' down from the shelter and is adjacent to the steep fire road. Both the men's and women's sides have a concrete entry platform, but the women's side has a drop off at least 3". The men's side is more usable but still challenging. The rough path to the entry is about 5' section of uneven 6% grade. Pull force to open the door is about 7 lbs, closing time is three seconds and the dead bolt is 4'4" high. Clear width through the door is about 33". Accessibility improvements to the picnic tables are planned for 2000.

## **WALTER ORR ROBERTS NATIRE TRAIL**

### **Site (S – 17)**

National Center for Atmospheric Research

<b>Rating:</b>	easy-moderate
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines, pavement
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 6' Min: 4'
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 1%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 6% Max: 9%
<b>Picnic:</b>	none
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs on leash
<b>Parking:</b>	7 designated spots plus general parking
<b>Structures:</b>	National Center for Atmospheric Research
<b>Restrooms:</b>	inside NCAR (easy-moderate)
<b>Location:</b>	WORNT is at the western end of Table Mesa Dr. at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in south Boulder.

### **Description**

Although the name of this site includes the word “trail”, it actually meets the criteria to be an access route. The total loop is about 0.25 miles (completely uphill one way and downhill the other). It’s a great place to visit for spectacular 360 degree views nestled in pine trees, grass and wildflowers beside the National Center for Atmospheric Research at the western end of Table Mesa Drive. NCAR’s immense, paved parking

lot has seven designated spaces with cross slopes of up to 3%. From parking to the route is about a 300' sidewalk with a consistent 6-7% grade. At the end of the sidewalk, you can go left up another 200' incline with an 8% grade to use the restroom facilities inside NCAR or take a tour of the science displays. Otherwise, the red crusher fines route begins across the road. The first 300' or so have a consistent uphill grade of 8% with a couple of very short 9% rises. Typically 6' wide, the route has plenty of room for passing. Beyond the first 300' the trail mellows to a 3-7% grade all the way to the westernmost point and sometimes narrows to 48". There are about a dozen flat pull-off areas with 2 ½' high interpretive signs highlighting weather-related information. Towards the distal end of the route there are two stone slab benches in shady areas. This is definitely a picturesque place to visit.



## **AQUARIUS TRAILHEAD**

### **Site (S – 18)/Trail (T – 19)**

(See Coal Creek/Rock Creek Trail description in Trail section)

Boulder County Parks and Open Space and  
Cities of Louisville and Lafayette

<b>Rating:</b>	easy-moderate
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 5' Min: 16"
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 1%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 4% Max: 10%
<b>Picnic:</b>	2 tables (moderate-difficult)
<b>Other users:</b>	bikes, dogs on leash
<b>Parking:</b>	1 designated spot plus general parking
<b>Structures:</b>	picnic shelter/tables
<b>Restroom:</b>	none
<b>Location:</b>	Aquarius Trailhead is located off Hwy. 42 in Louisville west of Hwy. 287

### **Description**

Aquarius Trailhead is the main access point for the Coal Creek/Rock Creek Trail which extends predominantly east and west through a riparian area. The parking lot is made of packed dirt and has one designated space that has thorny weeds growing though. The path from the parking lot to the trail is at least 5' wide, made of crusher fines and has a 4-5%

grade. It's an attractive area with landscape timbers and a split rail fence bordering the parking lot. While the site offers great access to the trail, usability of the picnic shelter is somewhat limited. From the main path there are two ways to get to the shelter. One way is 16" wide with a 5% grade and the other is 20" wide, short and has a 10% grade. You may be able to negotiate either one if you can handle passage over grasses. If you go by way of the 16" route, clear space between the concrete floor edge and the first of the two tables is only 30". If you can manage the other steeper path, there's about 48" of clear space. Tables are the traditional wooden type with no extensions on them and there are no grills or restrooms. Although the site has no shade other than the shelter, the trail offers considerable shady riparian vegetation.



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## **MESA TRAILHEAD – SOUTH**

### **Site (S – 19)/Trail (T – 20)**

(See description in Trail section)

City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

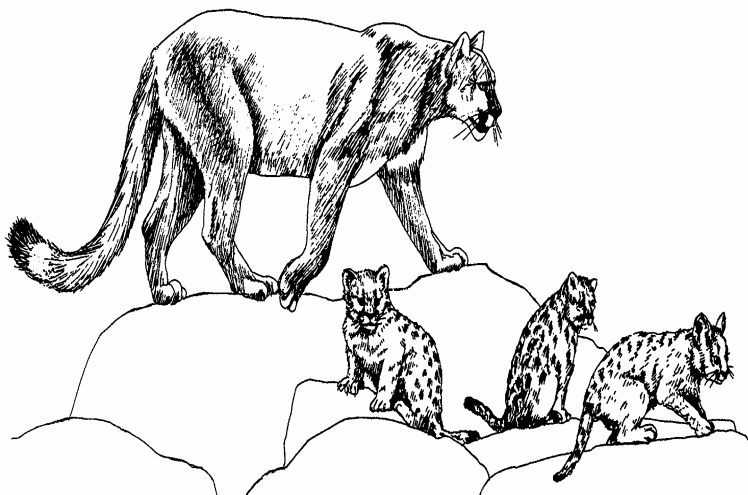
<b>Rating:</b>	easy
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines, dirt, gravel
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 9' Min: 48"
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 2%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 0-3% Max: 4%
<b>Picnic:</b>	7 tables (easy)
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs (voice/sight control), horses
<b>Parking:</b>	2 designated spots plus general parking
<b>Structures:</b>	2 bridges
<b>Restroom:</b>	1 set (easy)
<b>Location:</b>	Mesa Trailhead is on the north side of Eldorado Springs Dr. (Hwy. 190), 2 miles west of Hwy. 93.

### **Description**

Located off of Eldorado Springs Dr. is the Mesa – South Trailhead. Directly across the road from Doudy Draw, Mesa Trailhead features beautiful vistas, a wide variety of plant and animal life, a number of picnic tables, potential fishing access, a restroom, an historic stone house and several trails. There are two designated parking spaces among about 50 others on a packed dirt and gravel surface. The entire picnicking area has a 0% grade with seven tables spread across

the northern perimeter of the parking lot in both shaded and unshaded areas. All of the tables meet the ADAAG and are affixed in a base of crusher fines, which also surfaces the access path. The restrooms, which also meet ADA standards are located at the western end of the parking lot about 75' from the designated spaces and about 160' from the nearest picnic table. There is a 12' concrete bridge near the beginning of the trail that is plenty wide and has a side edge barrier about 5.5" from the base to prevent rolling off the side. The first 500' of the predominantly unshaded, crusher fines trail has an average width of 9' and has no more than a 3% grade. There are a few spots that are prone to puddling but because of the width, negotiating around them shouldn't be a problem. Within that area is a triangular loop access route off to the west that leads to a shaded fishing destination. While it's not designed to meet the ADAAG, it may be usable by some. The whole loop is approximately 800' with less than a 4% grade and at least 48" wide. At about 440' is a wooden bridge that crosses the South Boulder Creek. Because of the rain and erosion, the level change from the trail to the bridge surface ranges from 0.5" in the middle to 4" near the edges. It's about 50' long, 10' wide and has 1" gaps in the surface planks. The railing is 3' high and has X-style supports between the bottom and the top. There are no raised edges along the base to prevent rolling over, but you'd have to be trying pretty hard to make that happen. Beyond the bridge the surface material becomes looser and rougher as it mixes more with dirt. Shortly after the bridge is the historic Dunn house and the trailhead for Towhee

Trail (not included in User Guide). To reach the Dunn house, though, you'll need to get up a 150' section of 9% grade. There is crusher fines path around it that connects with the Homestead Trail (not included in User Guide) which is an easy to moderate challenge for about 200' and has an access point for fishing. Like the other fishing access, this one may be usable by some. Beyond the fishing access, the Homestead Trail becomes most difficult. More information on the Mesa Trail can be found in the Trail section.





## **DOUDY DRAW – Site (S – 20)/Trail**

(Trail not included in User Guide)

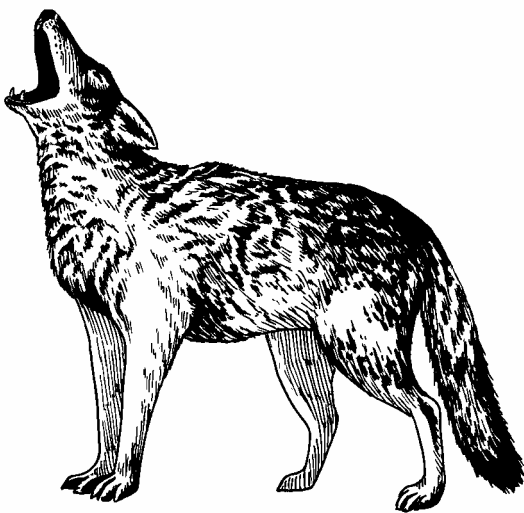
City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

<b>Rating:</b>	easy
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines, asphalt, dirt
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 6' Min: 36"
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 2%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 5% Max: 6%
<b>Picnic:</b>	1 table (easy)
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs (voice/sight control), bikes, horses
<b>Parking:</b>	2 designated spots plus general parking
<b>Structures:</b>	2 gates, bench
<b>Restroom:</b>	1 set (most difficult due to heavy doors)
<b>Location:</b>	Doudy Draw is on the south side of Eldorado Springs Dr., 2 miles west of Hwy. 93.

### **Description**

Doudy Draw is an access route to a picnic site and continues as a trail. Wildflowers are seasonally abundant here and up-close views of the foothills are great. It's also right across the road from the Mesa Trailhead site which has a number of usable features. (See description.) The packed-dirt parking lot has two designated spaces and ample regular parking. There is a spring-loaded gate at the trailhead that requires

6 lbs. of force to open and it closes in two seconds. This is the only access route that is primarily made of somewhat rough asphalt. Once you've reached the picnic area about 0.25 miles up the 5-6% grade, the trail continues on as a rocky, dirt single-track. Community Ditch Trail also intersects at this point. (Not included in User Guide.) The picnic area is enclosed by a fence and nestled in a grove of shade trees and grass. Very little force is needed to open and close the 40" wide gate, but the handle is 50" from the ground. The picnic table has extended ends on it for wheelchair access and is about 50' from the gate. The path is 44" wide, made of crusher fines and has almost no grade. The table is also surrounded by over 40" of crusher fines. A wooded park bench sits on the opposite end of the fenced area across the grass. There is a restroom about 150' up the trail but it is difficult, mainly due to heavy doors.



## **STREAMSIDE TRAIL AREA – (S – 21)**

### **Eldorado Canyon State Park**

<b>Rating:</b>	easy
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines, wood, natural surface
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 4' Min: 4' (2' beyond easy section)
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 2%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 3% Max: 7% (up to 20% beyond easy section)
<b>Picnic:</b>	none
<b>Other users:</b>	rock climbers, dogs on leash
<b>Parking:</b>	2 designated spots plus general parking
<b>Structures:</b>	wooden foot bridge
<b>Restrooms:</b>	1 set (easy – 2 stalls each)
<b>Location:</b>	Eldorado Canyon State Park is located 3.5 miles west of Hwy. 93 south of Boulder at the western end of Eldorado Springs Dr. A fee is required to enter ECSP.

### **Description**

Located near the park entrance and fee station, the Streamside Trail is actually short enough to be considered an access route and follows the South Boulder Creek. There are several parking options once inside the entrance, all of which are packed dirt and gravel with the exception of concrete pads for designated accessible parking places near the restrooms. The first lot is off to the right and slopes downward toward the creek. There are no trailheads

from that lot. If you drive straight, instead, you'll come quickly to the main lot with up to a 3% slope that provides access to an adjacent restroom. The restroom is exceptionally designed and meets all the ADA requirements. Both the men's and women's side have one wheelchair accessible stall and one regular stall and each has a wide wooden bench that is 5' long and 17" high. It's a great space for personal care assistance, although not private. The red crusher fines path to the next lot is about 90' long with a grade of 3-7% and is never less than 48" wide. From the third lot, which has a 1-3% grade, you have to go up the road with a 4-5% grade to get to the Streamside Trail, which is about 125' away. The trail begins with a 5' wide wooden foot bridge that passes over the creek. It's about 125' long and is arched with a 5% grade. Although it doesn't have raised edges at the base, it does have 3.5' high railings with horizontal, vertical, and diagonal steel supports. You won't roll off of this bridge! On the other side of the bridge, the access route follows the creek with a stone wall barrier on the creek side and massive rock walls on the other. It continues with a 2-4% grade to a huge boulder and cave about 175' farther. The trail continues beyond the cave as a natural surface hiking trail (most difficult) for an additional 0.5 miles and dead ends at the "West Ridge" rock formation. With great views of the Bastille and other famous rock climbing routes, this is a spectacular place to visit. Although there are no picnic tables at this site, the route is wide enough in places to pull off to the side and enjoy a sack lunch. Bring your binoculars!

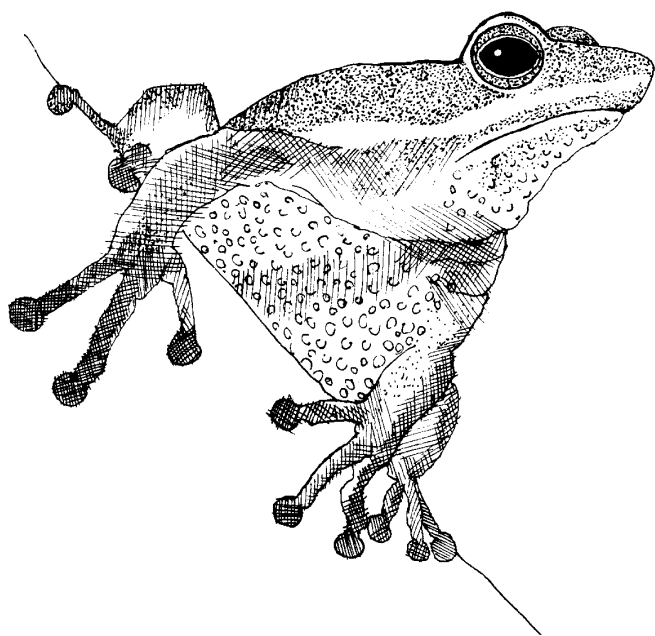
**ELDORADO CANYON NATURE CENTER  
AND PICNIC AREA – Site (S – 22)**  
Eldorado Canyon State Park

<b>Rating:</b>	easy-moderate
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines, dirt, sand, concrete
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 4' Min: 3'
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 2%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 1% Max: 3%
<b>Picnic:</b>	25+ (easy-moderate), 2 sites are designated and have concrete pads
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs on leash
<b>Parking:</b>	4 designated spots plus general parking
<b>Structures:</b>	shelter, kiosk, visitor center/restrooms
<b>Restrooms:</b>	1 set on the south side of creek (easy) plus visitor center restrooms on the north side with multiple stalls (moderate – difficult)
<b>Location:</b>	Eldorado Canyon State Park is located 3.5 miles west of Hwy. 93 south of Boulder at the western end of Eldorado Springs Drive. A fee is required to enter ECSP.

**Description**

If you keep driving up the road from the Streamside Trail, you'll come to an expansive picnicking and fishing area and a nature center where the road dead ends. Most path grades are minimal and all picnic sites have a 0-1% grade. If you stay on the south side of

the creek, on the left side of the road you'll find ample regular parking of dirt and crusher fines in addition to a designated concrete spot directly in front of a restroom that meets ADA specifications. There is ample maneuvering room in each with grab bars on the back and one side of the vault toilets. This parking area provides access to a number of picnic tables and grills, some easier to get to than others. All are mixed shade and sun and nearly all tables have a grill nearby. The two westernmost tables at this site are the most usable and from there you can wheel or walk to the water's edge to fish. There is a short path from the parking area on the creek side that's about 36" wide with a gentle slope. Surface material at this site is mixed sand and dirt. There is a single track path connecting with the other picnic tables along the creek. On the north side of the creek, there are many more picnic sites (23) including two designated spots set on concrete pads. Although most tables are easily reachable, these designated spots with table extensions on them are very desirable features. There are two water pumps on the north side of the creek, neither of which meet the ADAAG, but both are on flat ground and may be manageable depending on the user's ability. The westernmost area on the north side features more waterside fishing, a wildlife information kiosk, the only sheltered picnic table, a sand volleyball court, a nature center, and restrooms with plumbing and accessible stalls. While all of these features are currently easy to use, plans for improved fishing access, signage and new ADA accessible nature center and restrooms will be implemented in the spring of 2000. (See description in Trail section.)



## **FAIRGROUNDS LAKE (T-1)**

Boulder County Parks and Open Space

<b>Rating:</b>	easy
<b>Distance:</b>	0.8 mile
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines, concrete
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 10' Min: 4'
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 3%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 6% for 40'
<b>Picnic:</b>	1 shelter, 8 tables (easy)
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs on leash, anglers (bellyboats), bikes
<b>Parking:</b>	2 designated spots plus general parking
<b>Structures:</b>	picnic shelter/tables
<b>Restrooms:</b>	1 set (easy)
<b>Location:</b>	Fairgrounds Lake is located on Boston Ave. between Sunset St. and Hover Rd. in the Boulder County Fairgrounds Park in Longmont.

### **Description**

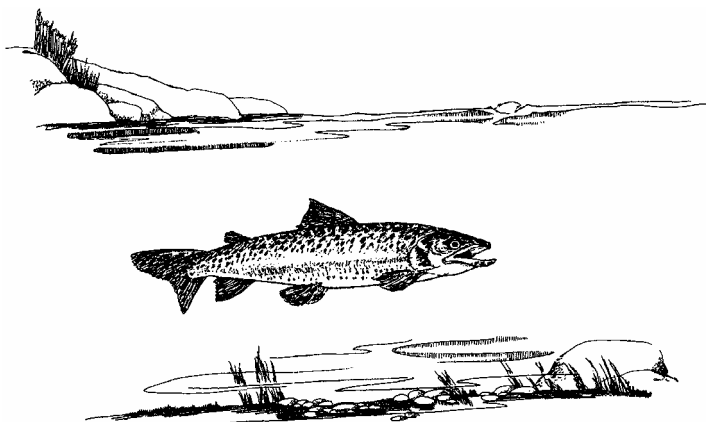
To get to Fairgrounds Lake, take the Diagonal Highway northeast of Boulder to Longmont. Turn left on Hover Rd. Travel about 1.2 miles to the Rogers Grove Arboretum parking lot on the right. Alternate parking is on Boston Ave. and Hover Rd. Each parking lot has two designated parking spots.

The Fairgrounds Lake Trail is a crusher fines and concrete path that is about 0.8 miles around.



Beginning at the arboretum, the trail starts off as crusher fines with a 5% uphill grade. After 380', the path hooks onto the St. Vrain Greenway and becomes concrete. Following this around the lake will take you to the other parking lot. At the other parking lot, the path forks into two crusher fines trails. One of the trails (4' wide) drops down by the shore of the lake and passes a picnic table before reconnecting with the other path (10' wide). This path continues beside the lake and eventually reaches the arboretum. This entire trail is an easy route with the most difficult section being a 6% grade for 40'. The crusher fines trail occasionally gets muddy because of rain and the sprinkler system.

The Fairgrounds Lake Trail can also be used to connect onto the St. Vrain Greenway, a concrete path following the St. Vrain River both east and west. Taking this easy path west will eventually bring you to Longmont's Golden Ponds, another easy spot to bird-watch.

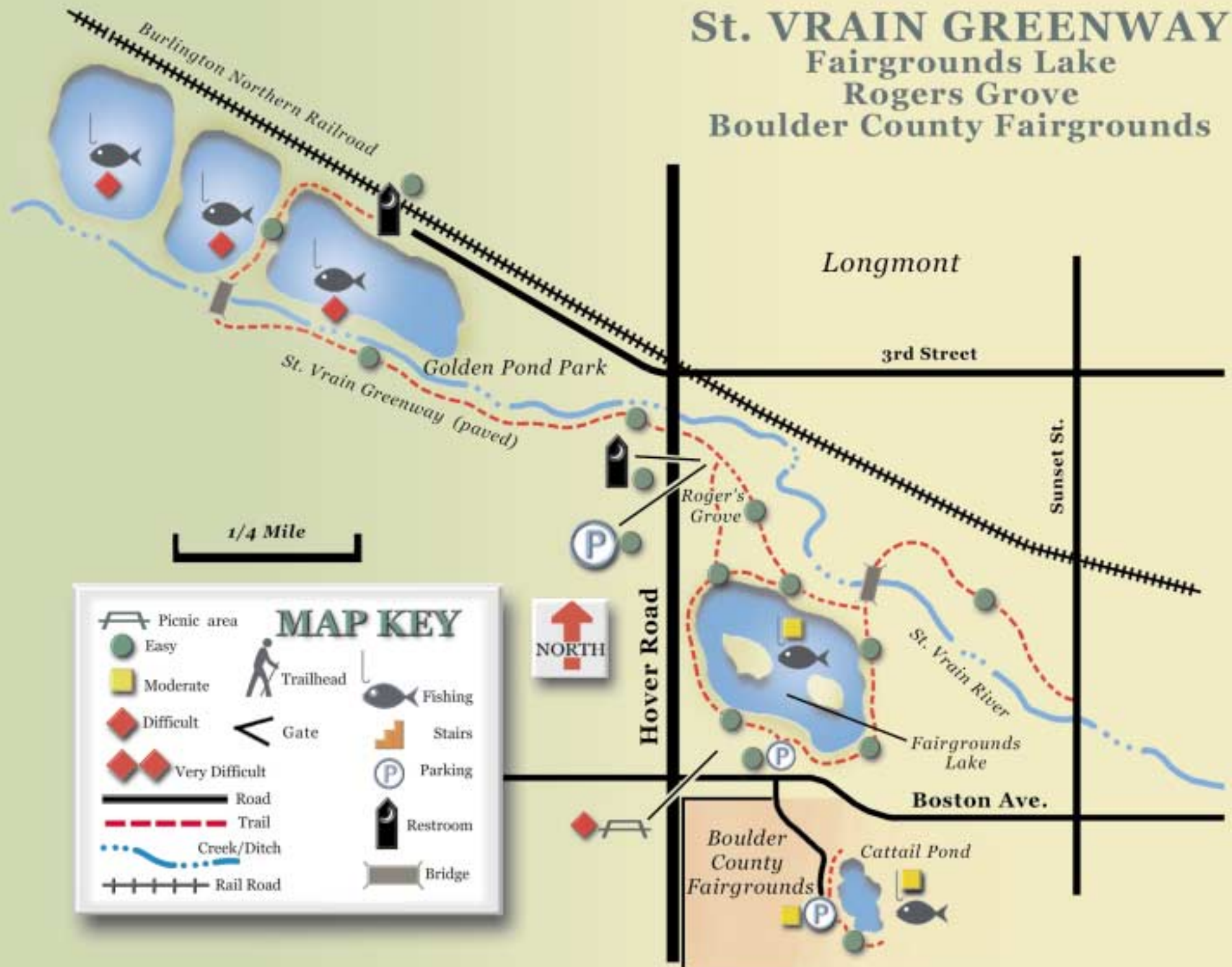


# St. VRAIN GREENWAY

## Fairgrounds Lake

### Rogers Grove

### Boulder County Fairgrounds



## **LAGERMAN RESERVOIR (T-2)**

Boulder County Parks and Open Space

<b>Rating:</b>	easy (one most difficult spot)
<b>Distance:</b>	1.5 miles
<b>Surface:</b>	road base dirt/gravel
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 12' Min: 3'
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 1%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 24% for 20' (at canal crossing)
<b>Picnic:</b>	1 shelter, 6 tables (easy/moderate), 2 grills
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs on leash, anglers, bikes, birders, horses
<b>Parking:</b>	general parking with no designated spots
<b>Structures:</b>	picnic shelter/tables
<b>Restrooms:</b>	1 set (moderate)
<b>Locations:</b>	Lagerman Reservoir is located off of Pike Rd. near 73 <sup>rd</sup> St. From Hwy. 119 head west on Niwot Rd. to north on 73 <sup>rd</sup> St. to west on Pike Rd.

### **Description**

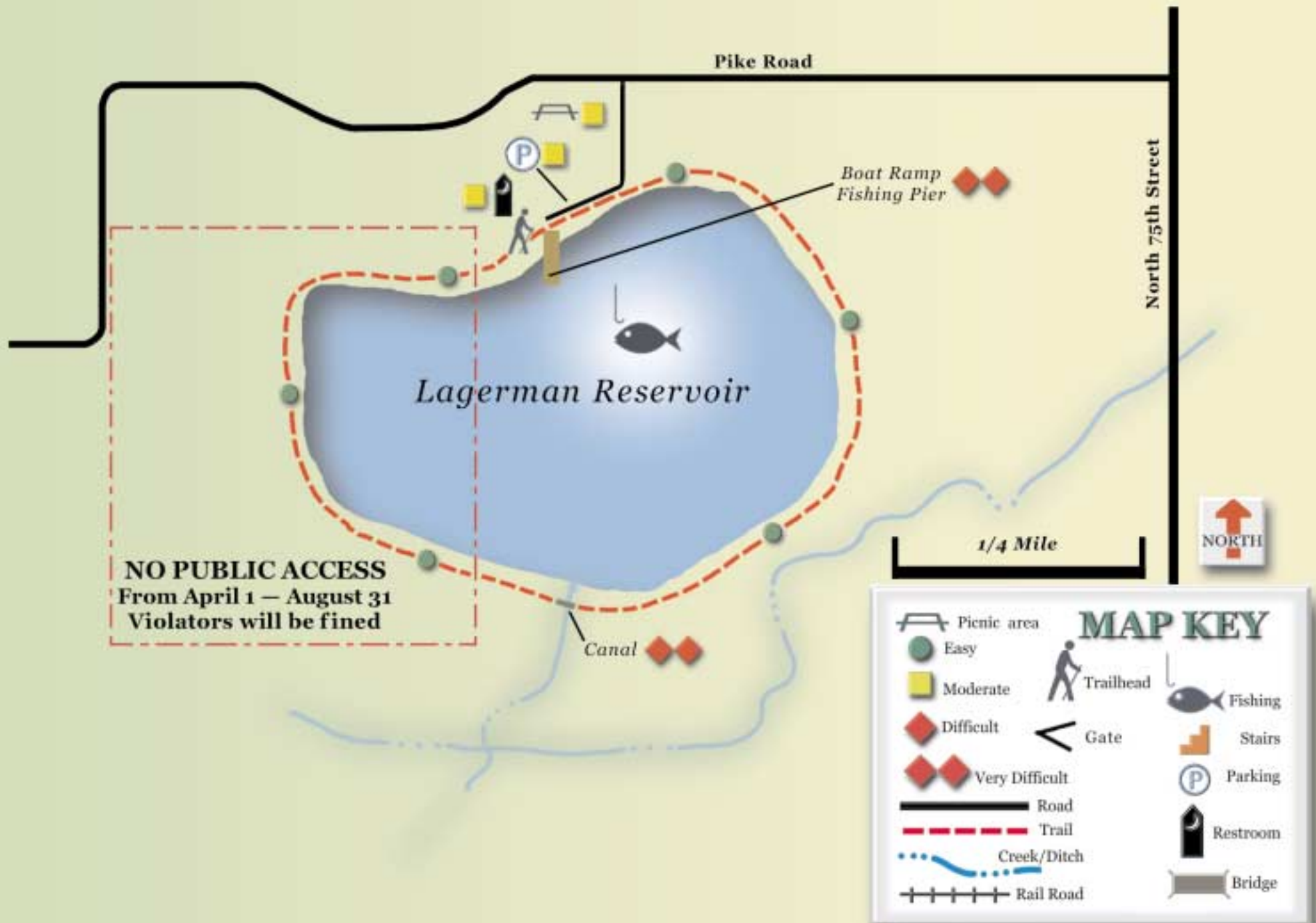
Follow the gravel road off of Pike Rd. 0.4 miles to the Lagerman Reservoir turn-off. The parking lot has no designated spaces, but it is spacious so parking should not be a problem.

Lagerman Reservoir is a small lake located east of Boulder in lush farmland. It is a nice location to picnic, fish, bird watch, and stroll near the lake. The trail is a wide, road base, dirt and gravel trail that is about 1.5 miles around the lake.

In a wheelchair, the trail is accessible 0.7 miles around the lake. At that point, there is a water overflow canal with about a 24% grade for 20' on each side of the canal. After the canal the trail only goes another 0.2 miles before it reaches a seasonal wildlife closure. This third of the trail is closed between April 1 and August 31 due to raptor nesting. There is no tree coverage so the trail is not conducive to mid-day visits on hot summer days. A picnic shelter and a set of bathrooms are also at the reservoir. (See Site description.)



# LAGERMAN TRAIL



**PELLA CROSSING (T-3)**  
Boulder County Parks and Open Space

<b>Rating:</b>	easy (one difficult spot)
<b>Distance:</b>	1.5 miles
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 10' Min: 8'
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 4% for 30'
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 17% for 5'
<b>Picnic:</b>	1 shelter, 3 tables (moderate), 1 grill
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs on leash, anglers (bellyboats), bird watchers, horses
<b>Parking:</b>	general parking with 1 designated spot
<b>Structures:</b>	picnic shelter/tables
<b>Restrooms:</b>	1 set (moderate)
<b>Location:</b>	Pella Crossing is located off of 75 <sup>th</sup> St. northwest of Niwot.

**Description**

To get to Pella Crossing, take the Diagonal Hwy. (Hwy 119) to Niwot Rd. Turn west on Niwot Rd. Go to 73<sup>rd</sup> St. and turn right. After about 1.5 miles, there is a jog in the road as it turns into 75<sup>th</sup> St. Follow 75<sup>th</sup> for another 5 miles. Pella Crossing is on the right.

At Pella Crossing, there are three lakes: Heron, Sunset, and Webster. A crusher fines path encircles both Heron and Sunset Lakes. A dirt path goes

partially around Webster Lake. The trail around both Heron and Sunset is approximately 1.5 miles. The trail bisects the two lakes if you want a shorter hike. Cottonwoods scattered around the lake offer some shade. One large cottonwood is located at 0.5 miles around Heron Lake. At this point on the trail there is also an overflow canal that the trail drops into. There is a 10% grade for 30' with a 14% lip (Accessibility improvements to this area are planned for the summer of 2000). For about 50' at the bottom of the canal, you may encounter water and mud. This is followed by another hill coming out of the canal. About 5' of the hill is a 17% grade. The rest of the trail around Sunset and Heron is relatively flat with one more hill having a 5% grade for 40'. There is also a section with a cross slope of about 4% for 30'.

The path along Webster Lake is more difficult. It is a rocky, dirt path that goes for 0.25 miles. It has a cross slope of 5-6% for 40'. A picnic shelter towards the beginning of the trail has two tables and a grill. An accessible bathroom is available with doors easy to operate (6lbs of force). Unfortunately, there is a 15% grade for 6' going up to the concrete bathroom landing. The three lakes are surrounded by farmland. Grasses grow around the lakes offering great habitat for a diversity of birds including great blue herons, egrets, killdeer, and a variety of raptors.



# PELLA CROSSING



500'

North 75th Street

to Niwot Road

Sunset Pond

Webster Pond

Heron Lake



## **NIWOT LOOP (T-4)**

### Boulder County Parks and Open Space

<b>Rating:</b>	easy-difficult
<b>Distance:</b>	3.7 miles
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines, gravel, paved, concrete
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 5' Min: 38"
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 5%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 15% for 8'
<b>Picnic:</b>	none
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs on leash, bikes, horses
<b>Parking:</b>	general parking with no designated spots
<b>Structures:</b>	4 gates, 5 bridges
<b>Restrooms:</b>	at Left Hand Valley Grange (easy)
<b>Location:</b>	The Niwot Loop Trailhead is located on 79 <sup>th</sup> St. near Hwy. 52

### **Description**

To get to the Niwot Loop Trailhead, follow the Diagonal Hwy. (Hwy 119) northeast of Boulder to Hwy. 52. You will see IBM on the west side of the road. Turn east. This is Hwy. 52. Drive about 1 mile to 79<sup>th</sup> St. Turn left. The parking lot and trailhead are to the right about 0.4 miles further on 79<sup>th</sup> St. No designated parking spots are available, but the lot is large with plenty of room.

The Niwot Loop Trail meanders through pastures, housing communities, and follows irrigation ditches

for a total of 3.7 miles. To start the trail heading west, cross 79<sup>th</sup> St. and enter through the gate (36", 5lbs.). The crusher fines trail takes you through horse pastures for the next 0.5 miles. Be careful of horse droppings on the trail. There is quite a bit. The trail begins by descending 4-7% with about 20' at 10%. After the 10% grade, you will cross a bridge and come to a fork. Take a right to follow the Niwot Loop. Another 0.1 miles will bring you to a gate (42", 0.5 lbs). Keep traveling another 0.3 miles and you will reach another gate (35", 8-11lbs.). Just ahead to the left is the Dry Creek Monarch Park parking lot. Follow the smaller trail through the opening (42") into the parking lot as it is impossible to maneuver a wheelchair through the next gate if you continue on the regular trail.

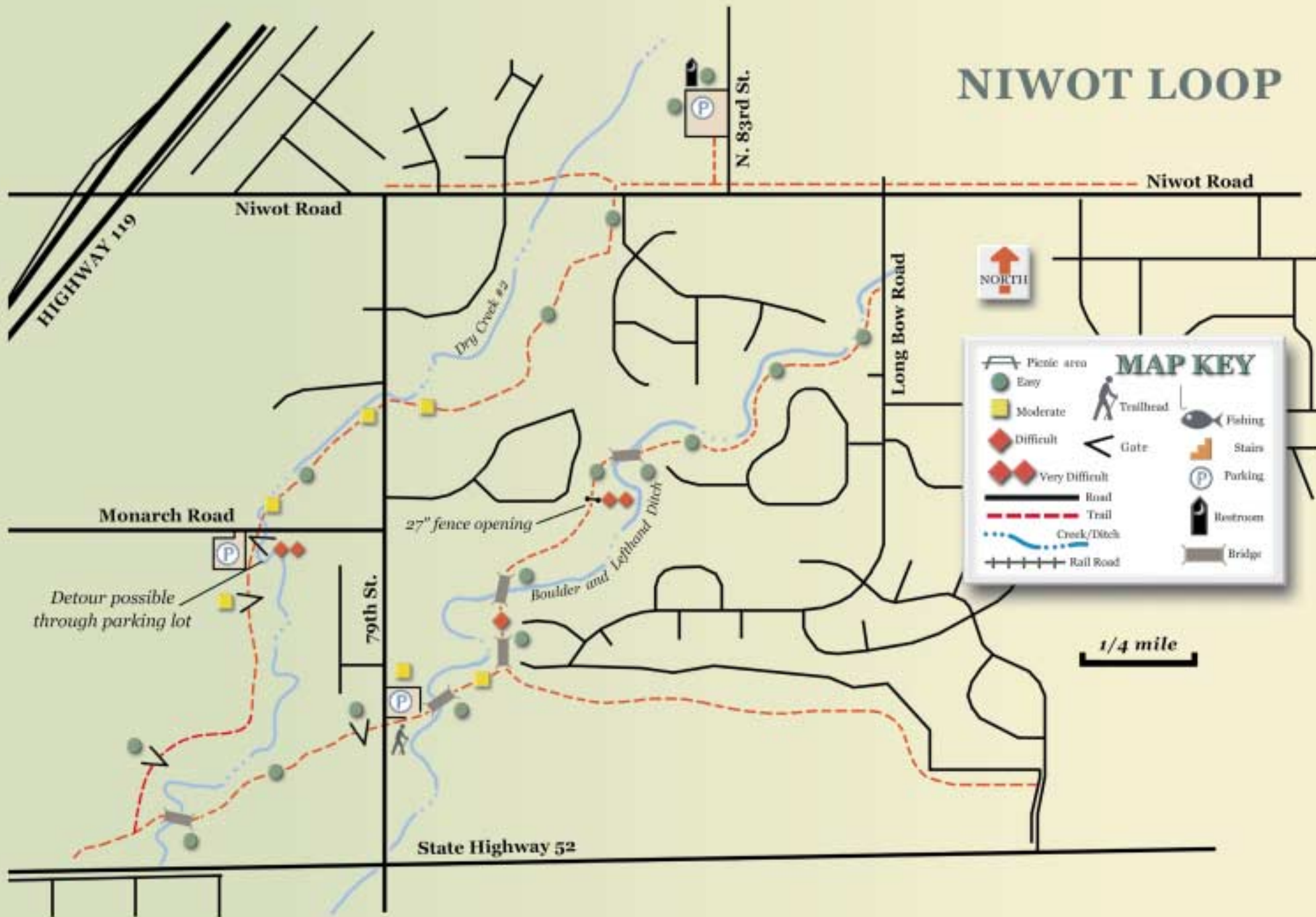
Across Monarch Rd. the trail begins again with an 11% grade for 1'. It winds through some trees, passes a pond, and comes to another fork. Follow the fork to the right. This continues on the Niwot Loop. As you approach 79<sup>th</sup> St. there is a grade of 13% for 15'. After crossing 79<sup>th</sup> St., the trail drops down the other side with a grade of 9%. Just ahead it forks and becomes pavement. Turn left.

The sidewalk winds around, taking you to Niwot Rd. On the way, there are a few grades of 5% for about 50' each but most of this section is 1-2%. There is one grade of 10% for 30'. When you come to the road, follow the trail through the underpass and follow the fork to the right. The trail/sidewalk passes Left Hand Valley Grange Park where bathrooms (moderate) are available.

Continue on the side walk to the Waterford Community entrance. This is 2.3 miles from the start of the trail. Across the road from the Waterford Community is the Niwot Fire Department and Longbow Rd. Cross Niwot Rd. and follow Longbow Rd. almost 0.25 miles to the trail entrance of Niwot Loop on the right. From there the blacktop trail descends, winding down along a stream and through a housing area. There are a lot of off-shoot trails heading to various housing areas, so follow the signage and stay on Niwot Loop Trail. After following the trail 0.3 miles, turn right over a bridge and skirt by the park.

To continue on the Niwot Loop Trail, enter through one of two openings in the fence on the far side of the park. These openings are very narrow (26.5" and 27") and are impossible for most wheelchairs. If you do manage to get through, the path turns to crusher fines. Shortly, the trail veers left over a bridge and climbs a grade of 15% for 8'. This is very difficult and may require assistance. Reaching the top, the trail crosses another bridge. At this time the trail turns to thick gravel which is very difficult to negotiate in a wheelchair. This goes on for 0.1 miles before turning back to crusher fines for the last 0.75 miles. This last section, for the most part, has an easy downhill grade of 1% and includes one more bridge. It ends with an 8% grade dropping into the parking lot.

# NIWOT LOOP



**COOT LAKE - Trails (T - 5)**  
**City of Boulder Mountain Parks**

<b>Rating:</b>	easy-most difficult
<b>Length:</b>	1-3 miles (depending on route)
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines, road base, dirt
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 5' Min: 2'
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 5%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 17% for 8'
<b>Picnic:</b>	4 tables (difficult)
<b>Other users:</b>	birdwatchers, anglers, runners, dogs (voice/sight control)
<b>Parking:</b>	general parking with no designated spots (often crowded)
<b>Structures:</b>	bridge (most difficult), fishing pier (easy)
<b>Restrooms:</b>	1 set (easy)
<b>Location:</b>	The Coot Lake Trailhead is on N. 63 <sup>rd</sup> St. just west of Hwy. 119 near the Boulder Reservoir.

**Description**

Adjacent to the parking lot is a wheelchair accessible fishing pier. A crusher-fine trail also starts from the parking lot and heads in both directions around the lake. One hundred feet southwest on the trail there is a wooden foot bridge with a steep 15% grade for 3' up both ends. It has no raised edges or railing. After about 0.1 miles in each direction the crusher fines changes surface type. If you are heading southwest

## **TRAIL NOTES**

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

## COOT LAKE – Trails (T-5)

City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

<b>Rating:</b>	easy-most difficult
<b>Length:</b>	1-3 miles (depending on route)
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines, road base, dirt
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 5' Min: 2'
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 5%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 17% for 8'
<b>Picnic:</b>	4 tables (difficult)
<b>Other users:</b>	birders, anglers, runners, dogs (voice/sight control)
<b>Parking:</b>	general parking with no designated spots (often crowded)
<b>Structures:</b>	bridge (most difficult), fishing pier (easy)
<b>Restrooms:</b>	1 set (easy)
<b>Location:</b>	The Coot Lake Trailhead is on N. 63 <sup>rd</sup> St. just west of Hwy. 119 near the Boulder Reservoir

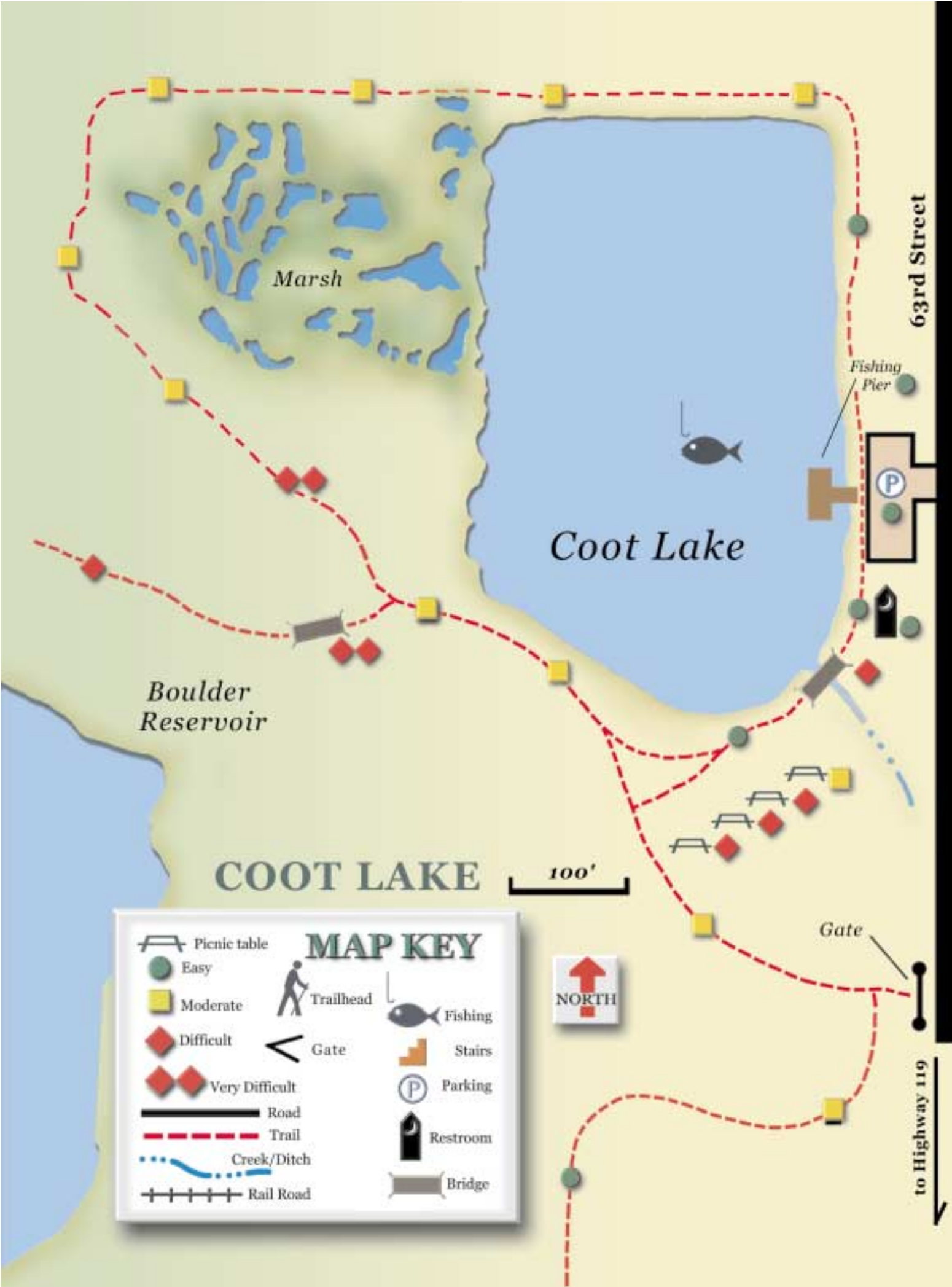
### Description

Adjacent to the parking lot is a wheelchair accessible fishing pier. A crusher fines trail also starts from the parking lot and heads in both directions around the lake. One hundred feet southwest on the trail there is a wooden foot bridge with a steep 15% grade for 3' up both ends. It has no raised edge or railings. After about 0.1 miles in each direction the crusher fines change surface type. If you are heading southwest

around the lake, the trail turns into a gravel service road. If you follow this road to the left, it will take you by the Boulder Reservoir Dam and over to the south side of the Boulder Reservoir. If you follow the road to the right instead, you can connect to a trail circling Coot Lake or just follow the service road for 0.5 mile to the canal. The trail continues on from the canal, but the width of the canal crossing is only 27". This, along with a step on each side of the bridge, makes it hard to negotiate with a wheelchair.

In order to circle Coot lake, follow the service road 0.2 miles northwest. Take a right on the single-track, hard-packed dirt trail heading north. This trail encircles Coot Lake as well as some wetlands, so there is a wide variety of vegetation and birds in the area. The trail is difficult, especially in the beginning. There are two short, steep hills, one with a grade of 17% for 8' and another with the grade of 15% for about 60'. These may require some assistance to negotiate with a wheelchair. After the 15% grade, the trail eases up with only a few 8% grades. Most of the trail consists of two 12" wheel ruts with another 12" of grass between. By putting one wheel in the rut and one in the grass, it is possible to take this section of the trail in a wheelchair. Accessibility improvement plans for 2000 include better access to the picnic area and designated parking spaces.





## **EAGLE (T-6)/SAGE (T-7) TRAILS (Boulder Valley Ranch)**

City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

<b>Rating:</b>	easy-difficult
<b>Distance:</b>	3 miles
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines, road base
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 10' Min: 3'
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 5%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 3% Max: 15% for 40'
<b>Picnic:</b>	none
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs (voice/sight control), bikes, horses
<b>Parking:</b>	general parking with no designated spots
<b>Structures:</b>	8 gates, 2 bridges
<b>Restrooms:</b>	1 set (moderate)
<b>Location:</b>	There are two trailheads for the Eagle/Sage Trail loop. The Boulder Valley Ranch Trailhead (Sage Tr.) is On Longhorn Rd. east of Hwy 36 just north of Boulder. Eagle trailhead is located off of 51 <sup>st</sup> St. northwest of the entrance to Boulder Reservoir.

### **Description**

Starting at the Boulder Valley Ranch Trailhead, the Sage Trail begins with a gradual climb of 1-2% with a few short downhill for 0.7 miles. At this point you reach Eagle Trail. Take the Eagle Trail to the east.

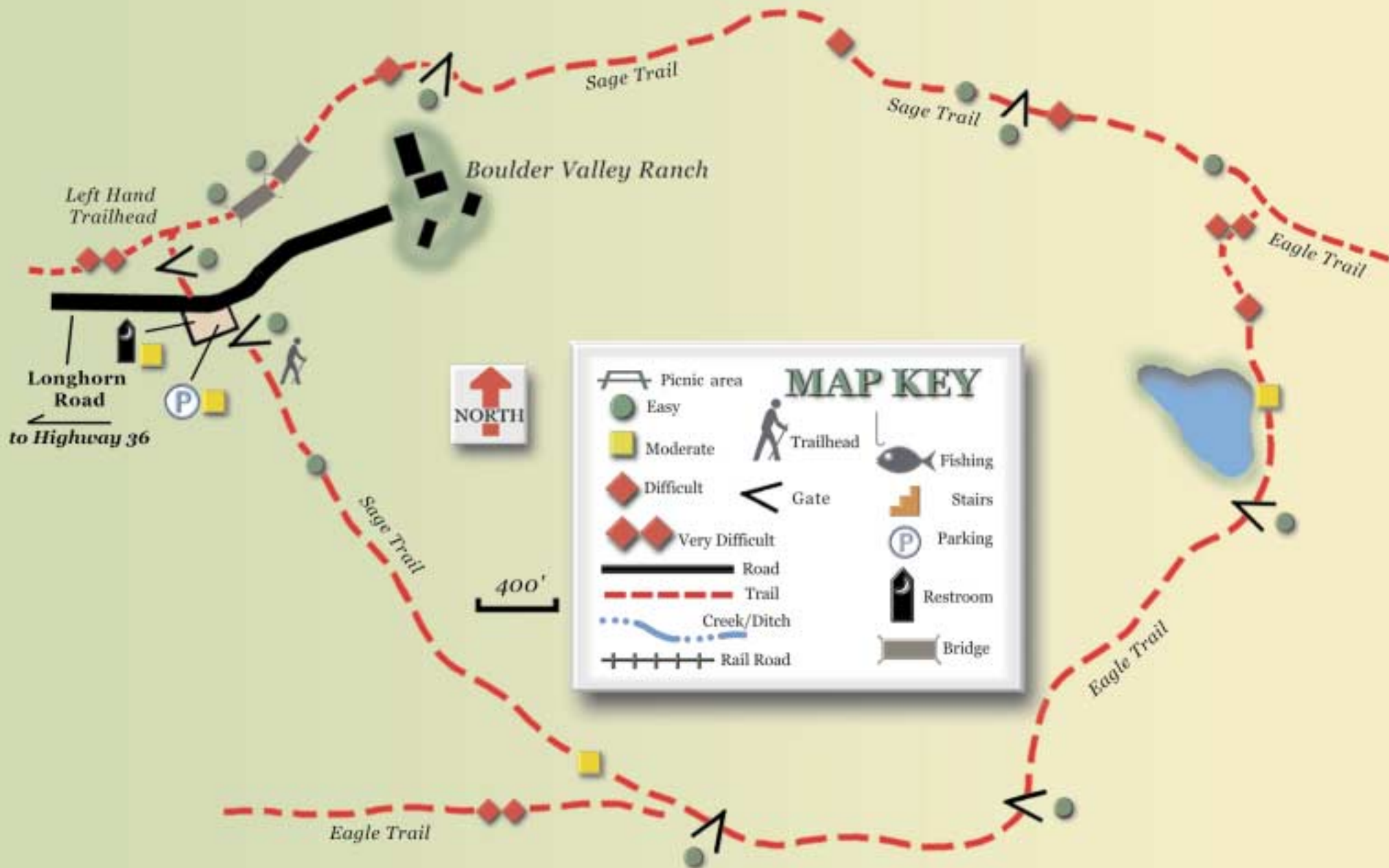
The Eagle Trail west is almost impossible with a wheelchair. It is a steep, rutted, single-track trail, with some severe cross slopes.

Heading east, the trail passes through a gate and down a 10% grade for 40'. Most of the trail from this point on has a 5-6% grade. There are a few low spots on the trail that are sometimes a bit muddy and are often rutted when dry. Upon passing the pond there is a steep climb that reaches a grade of 15% for 40'. This is the most difficult section of the trail.

At the top of the hill, the trail forks. The Eagle Trail heads west (right) to the Eagle Trailhead and the Sage Trail heads northwest (left) back to Boulder Valley Ranch. If you follow the Sage Trail, there is a downhill section reaching grades of 11-12%. The trail then climbs for the next 0.7 miles to the parking lot of Boulder Valley Ranch with a final 12% climb of 20'. Most gates along the route are always open except for the gates at the trailheads which require 0.5 lbs – 3lbs of force and are 28" – 42" wide. The second gate northeast of the Boulder Valley Ranch Trailhead (5lbs, 36"), has an 8% rutted slope approaching it. Two small bridges (hardly noticeable) are near the northwest corner of the trail. Most of the trail is road base except for a 0.4-mile section of crusher fines. The trail does not have much cover, so it can get unbearably hot in the summer months. Wildlife such as coyotes, raptors, waterfowl, and prairie dogs reside in this area. Vegetation is mostly grass, yucca, and cottonwoods.

# BOULDER VALLEY RANCH

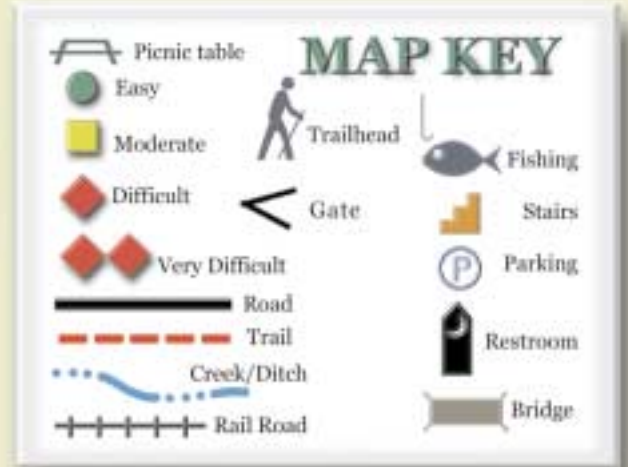
## Sage and Eagle Trails



# EAGLE TRAIL



400'



**FOOTHILLS TRAIL (T-8)**  
**(Four Mile Trailhead – South)**  
City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

<b>Rating:</b>	easy-moderate
<b>Distance:</b>	0.75 miles
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 8' Min: 8'
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 3%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 4% Max: 9% for 60'
<b>Picnic:</b>	none
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs on leash, horses, bikes
<b>Parking:</b>	4 designated spots plus general parking
<b>Structures:</b>	bridge
<b>Restrooms:</b>	none
<b>Location:</b>	The trailhead for Foothills Trail and Four Mile Trail is located on Lee Hill Rd. 0.25 miles west off of N. Broadway near the convergence of Hwy. 36 and N. Broadway in north Boulder.

**Description**

This 0.75-mile crusher fines trail is an easy route with some moderate spots. The trail is wide open with no coverage so it can be very hot on sunny days. It maintains an 8' width its entire length. The trail starts out rolling, with grades from 6%-9%. After about 500' this trail levels out with occasional grades up to

6% for the remainder.

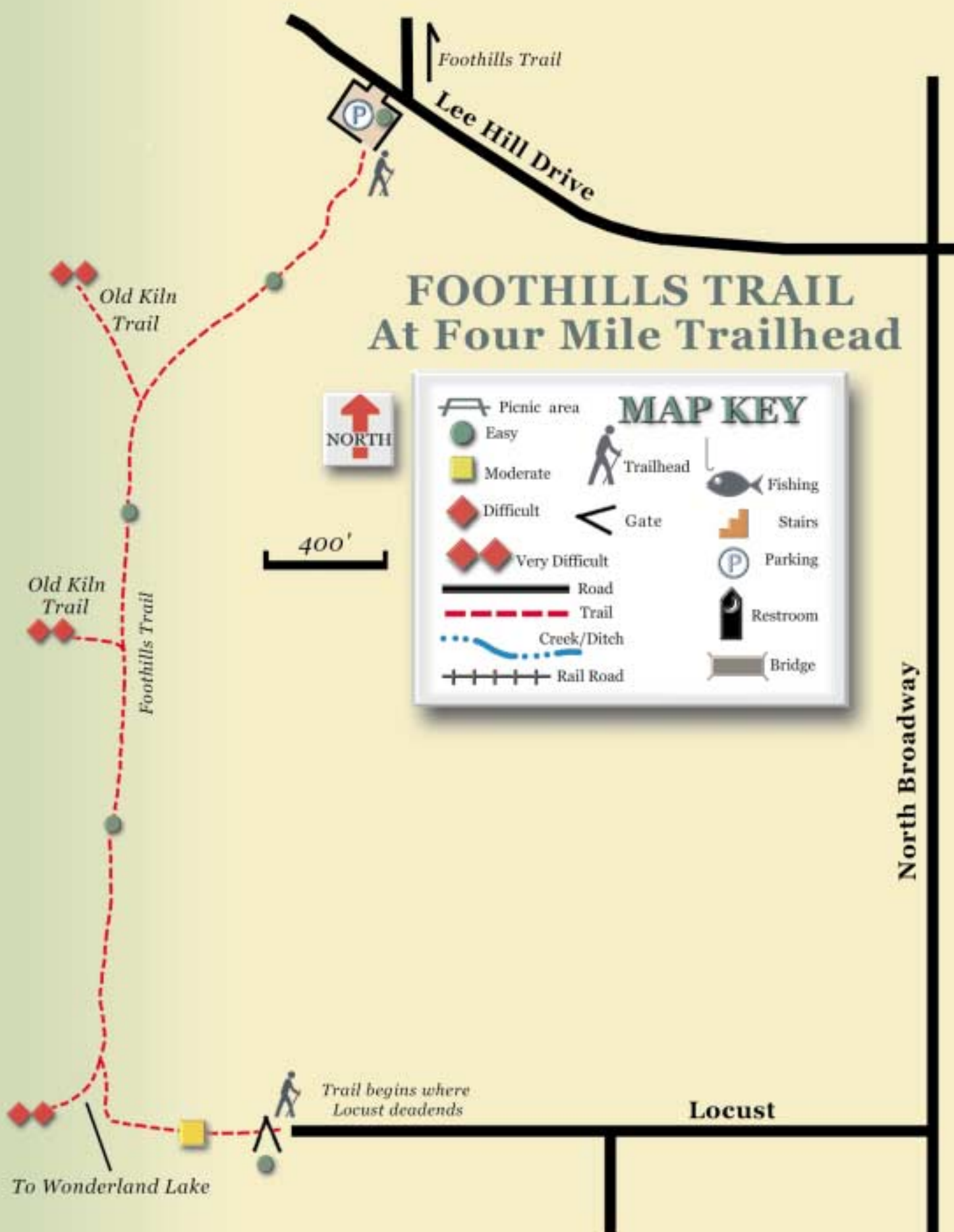
There are several connecting trails along the way. At about 1000', Old Kiln Trail veers off to the right. Despite how easy this trail looks, it gets very difficult quickly with a few water bars to negotiate and a very steep grade. You would be wise to avoid it if in a wheelchair. After another 350', a trail shoots off to the left to access the park. This is a 25' crusher fines path with a grade of 8%. Another trail veers off to the left soon after. This rough trail travels for about 1000' and takes you to Locust Ave. Reaching the end of the Foothills Trail, a sidewalk heading to Utica is on the left. This is an 85' sidewalk with an 8% grade.

The Foothills Trail goes all the way down to Wonderland Lake, but the last 400' section has grades from 10-17% with some ruts and loose surface material. It is very difficult in a wheelchair and not recommended. You can get to Wonderland Lake, though, by using one of the side paths to the left and then heading south through a quiet neighborhood using the sidewalks.





# FOOTHILLS TRAIL At Four Mile Trailhead



400'

Picnic area
 Easy
 Moderate
 Difficult
 Very Difficult
 Road
 Trail
 Creek/Ditch
 Rail Road

### MAP KEY

 Trailhead
 Gate
 Fishing
 Stairs
 Parking
 Restroom
 Bridge

North Broadway

Locust

To Wonderland Lake

Trail begins where  
Locust deadends

Foothills Trail

Lee Hill Drive

Old Kiln  
Trail

Old Kiln  
Trail

Foothills Trail



## WONDERLAND LAKE – Trail (T-9)

City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

<b>Rating:</b>	easy – moderate
<b>Distance:</b>	1.75 miles
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines, paved, concrete
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 8' Max: 3'4"
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 3% for 5'
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 2% Max: 11% for 20' (avoidable)
<b>Picnic:</b>	2 tables (moderate)
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs on leash, bikes, anglers
<b>Parking:</b>	2 designated spots plus general parking
<b>Structures:</b>	2 bridges
<b>Restrooms:</b>	none
<b>Location:</b>	The Wonderland Lake Trailhead is on the west side of N. Broadway just south of Utica Ave. in north Boulder.

### Description

The Foothills Nature Center (a small white building) is directly behind the Wonderland Lake Trailhead and parking lot. Two designated parking spots are available in the lot.

This 1.75 mile crusher-fines trail starts on the south side of the Foothills Nature Center. The trail crosses a grassy field on an uphill slope of 2%, sometimes reaching grades of 4%. At about 0.15 miles, the trail travels up a hill with an 8-9% grade for 100'. It then flattens out as you approach a fork in the trail in less

than 0.1 miles. At this point the trail circles the lake, so either direction is fine.

Turning to the right, the trail is hard-packed dirt and gravel. You will soon reach a fence with a 40" opening. An 8% grade for 12' climbs to the road and sidewalk from the fence opening. Take this route uphill and west to the paved driveway on your left. Following the driveway down, you will come to the trail again on the right. This crusher fines path crosses a bridge, goes up a short 7% grade and skirts around the hillside. Eventually you will come to a cottonwood tree and a fork in the road. To the right and up a steep hill is the Foothills Trail. To the left is Wonderland Lake Trail.

The Wonderland Lake Trail is relatively flat for the next 0.25 miles. The trail then turns to concrete, travels up a 7% grade, and reaches a fork in the trail. Take the concrete path to the left. Shortly, you will reach another fork where you should turn left again. The trail has a downhill grade of about 7% for 140'. It levels out as it winds around a playground. A picnic table and several benches (moderate) surround the playground (No direct access to playground).

After the playground, the sidewalk reaches a grade of 8% for 70'. When you reach another fork, turn to the left and continue over the bridge, up a short 6% rise and down the concrete path to the bottom of the hill. Upon reaching the bottom, follow the trail to the left onto a surface of crusher fines and dirt/gravel. This 7% (61') downhill is sometimes washed out, so be

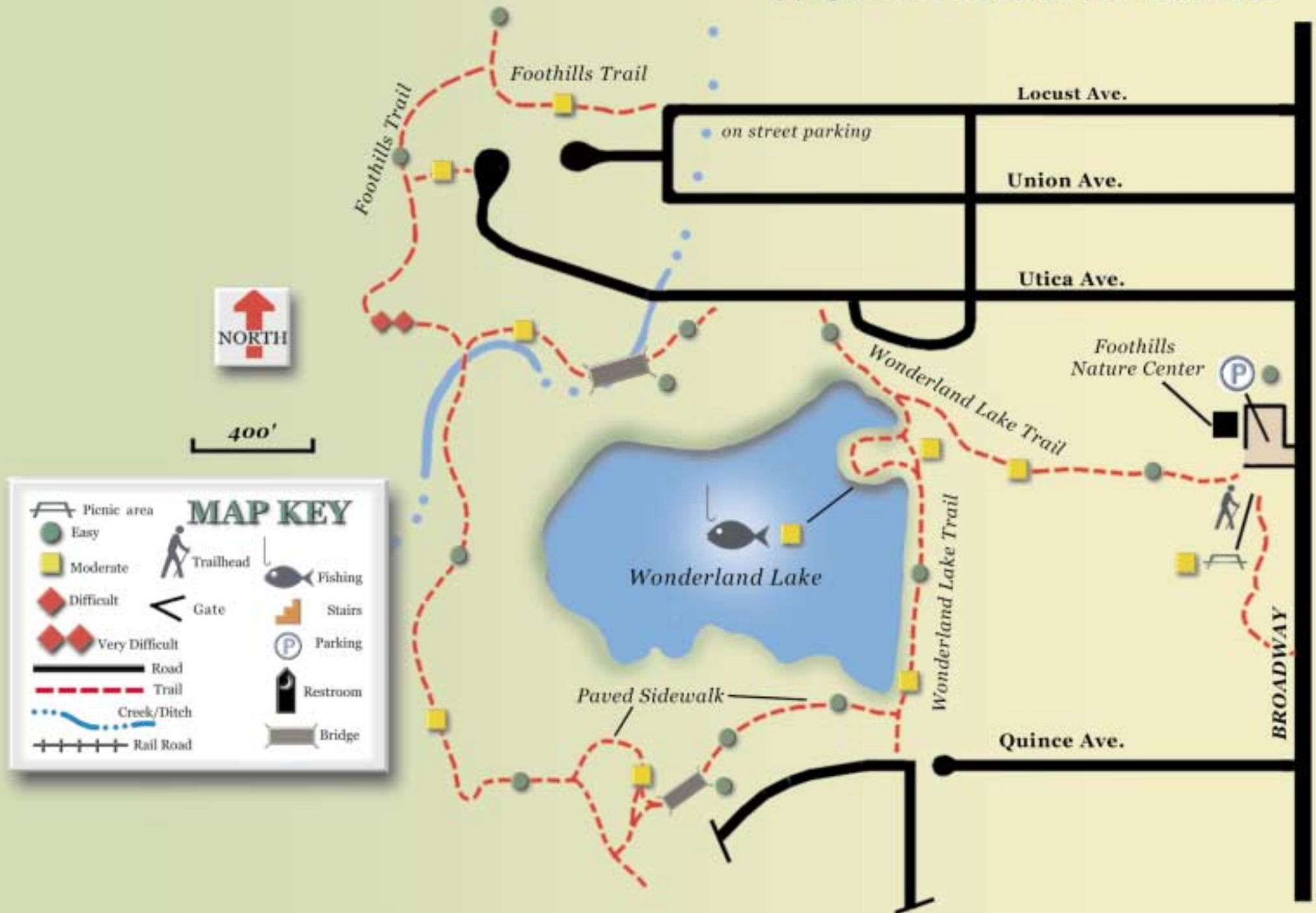
careful. The trail continues on flat for 0.1 miles where you'll reach another fork in a stand of trees.

Turning left will take you on a crusher fines path that meanders along the water's edge and reconnects with the main trail. This area is great for fishing from a wheelchair since it brings you very close to the water.

After reconnecting with the main trail, the trail dips into a canal and comes up the other side. A crusher fines path with a grade of 7% is the easier route. The other path is very steep! Turning right at the top of the hill will take you back to the Foothills Nature Center.



# WONDERLAND LAKE



## **NOTES**

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

## **WALDEN PONDS WILDLIFE HABITAT (T-10)**

Boulder County Parks and Open Space

<b>Rating:</b>	easy-moderate
<b>Distance:</b>	2.1 miles of trails
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines, dirt, gravel, wood
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 8' Min: 5'
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 5%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 12% for 10'
<b>Picnic:</b>	2 shelters, 6 tables (easy), 1 grill
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs on leash, anglers, bird watchers
<b>Parking:</b>	4 designated spots plus general parking
<b>Structures:</b>	fishing pier, boardwalk, 2 picnic shelters/tables
<b>Restrooms:</b>	2 sets (easy), one at Cottonwood Marsh and one at Picnic Pond
<b>Location:</b>	The WPWH is located between Jay Rd. and Valmont Rd. on the west side of 75 <sup>th</sup> St.

### **Description**

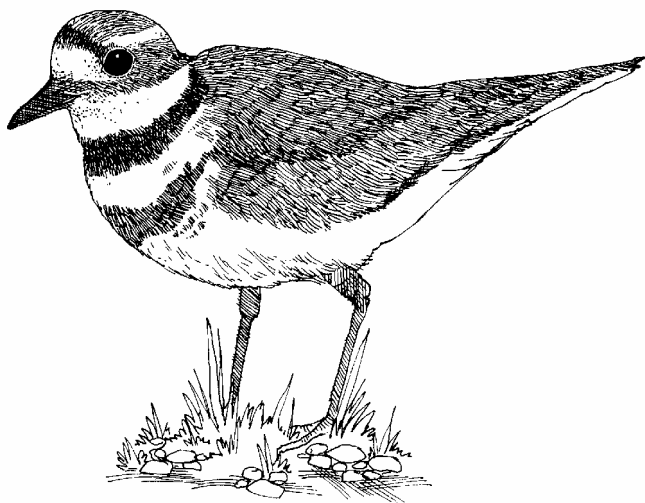
Driving north on 75<sup>th</sup> St. from Valmont Rd., make a left on Walden Rd. marked by a brown Open Space sign. There are two parking lots as you come down the road. The first is by Picnic Pond. It is not a large lot, but does have two designated spots. The parking lot by Cottonwood Marsh is much larger. This lot also has two designated spots and is in a more central location to all of the Walden Ponds.

From the Cottonwood Marsh parking lot, you can take a crusher fines path back to Picnic Pond, or a boardwalk down to Cottonwood Marsh. The trail to Picnic Pond is flat and easy except for the first slope at 6%. At Picnic Pond, veer off to the left before reaching the parking lot. A slope of 8% for 10' in the northwest corner is the hardest slope you will encounter on this loop. The trail has some narrow sections, the narrowest being 18". The trail is possible to do in a wheelchair by rolling one wheel in the grass and one on the trail. Near the Picnic Pond parking lot are accessible bathrooms and a wooden boardwalk leading you down to an accessible fishing pier. The boardwalk has a slope of 7% for about 30'. Fishing at Picnic Pond is allowed only with a special permit. Permits are available for Boulder County resident seniors 64 years of age and older and persons with disabilities.

At Cottonwood Marsh, a boardwalk takes you down to the pond. The boardwalk has a 7-8% grade until it flattens out after about 40'. Off the boardwalk there is a pier where you can watch the numerous waterfowl, raptors, and other birds. Coming up the west side of the boardwalk, you will again encounter a slope of 8% for about 40'. At the top, the trail splits into two crusher fines paths. One fork heads back to the parking lot. The other heads to the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Field Station and a couple of ponds behind it. A gravel/dirt path with some difficult,

rocky spots almost completely encircle these ponds. You may have to turn around as you approach the southwest corner of these ponds if you are using a wheelchair. Otherwise you can climb over a log step and maneuver through an irrigation ditch to access the City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks Sawhill Ponds trail of crusher fines. Be careful of killdeer eggs, as killdeer birds sometimes nest on these gravel/dirt roads.

Walden Ponds is a great place to see wildlife. Birders love the area, anglers drop by to try their luck at the waters, and picnickers come by just to enjoy the scenery and the great views of the Rockies. There is a larger picnic shelter with several tables and a grill near the Cottonwood Marsh parking lot along with a smaller shelter containing a table and grill. An easy restroom is also nearby.





# WALDEN PONDS WILDLIFE HABITAT



## **NOTES**

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

## **SAWHILL PONDS – Trail (T -11)**

City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

<b>Rating:</b>	moderate
<b>Length:</b>	1.85 miles
<b>Surface:</b>	road base, dirt, gravel
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 8' Min: 1'
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 3%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 1% Max: 5%
<b>Picnic:</b>	3 tables (1 moderate, 2 most difficult)
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs (voice/sight control), anglers, birdwatchers, horses
<b>Parking:</b>	1 designated spot plus general parking
<b>Structures:</b>	fishing pier (easy)
<b>Restrooms:</b>	1 set (easy)
<b>Location:</b>	The Sawhill Ponds Trailhead is located on the west side of 75 <sup>th</sup> St. between Jay Rd. and Valmont Rd. Follow the gravel road 0.25 miles until it ends at the Sawhill Ponds parking lot.

### **Description**

















This old gravel quarry has been converted to wetlands with a multitude of ponds scattered about. It offers catch-and-release fishing, bird watching, and just strolling along the trail as some of the recreational activities. A wheelchair accessible fishing pier extends onto the pond adjacent to the gravel parking lot.

Accessible restrooms are also nearby.

The trail is approximately a 1.75 mile loop that winds through the ponds. It is a combination of road base dirt/gravel and a sandy, fine gravel. The trail is 8' wide, but some sections turn into two or three gravel tracks with plant growth between. The tracks can get as narrow as 12" but are negotiable with a wheelchair by riding one wheel in the plant growth beside the track. The trail is generally flat with most grades not exceeding 2%. The steepest grade is 5% for 50' along the backside of the loop. Cross slope is negligible with the worst being 3% for about 20'.

Vegetation around the area is wetland with various trees scattered around the ponds offering shade during excessively hot days. Small picnic tables and benches with no shade are also available in the area, although most of the tables are difficult to access with a wheelchair. A variety of wildlife dwells at Sawhill Ponds including muskrats, beavers, herons, ducks, birds of prey and geese. Anglers fish the ponds for bass and sunfish. Accessibility improvement plans for 2000 include a picnic shelter and several tables.

### MAP KEY

	Picnic area		Trailhead		Fishing
	Easy		Gate		Stairs
	Moderate				Parking
	Difficult				Restroom
	Very Difficult				Bridge
	Road				
	Trail				
	Creek/Ditch				
	Rail Road				



## **WHITE ROCKS – Trail (T – 12)**

City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

<b>Rating:</b>	easy-most difficult
<b>Distance:</b>	1.25 miles
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines, road base, dirt, sand
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 7' Min: 3'
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 5%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 18% for 100'
<b>Picnic:</b>	none
<b>Other users:</b>	bikes, horses (dogs not allowed)
<b>Parking:</b>	2 designated spots plus general parking
<b>Structures:</b>	1 bridge, railroad tracks
<b>Restrooms:</b>	none
<b>Location:</b>	The White Rocks Trailhead is located about 0.75 miles west of 95 <sup>th</sup> St. on the north side of Valmont Rd.

### **Description**

Two accessible parking spots are located at the trailhead on the north side of Valmont Rd. All other parking is in the North Teller parking lot, less than 0.25 miles east on Valmont Rd. There is a small trail adjoining the two lots, but wheelchair users may have to use the road since this trail is uneven and steep in parts.

The White Rocks Trail winds through lush farmland and a riparian area. This makes it conducive to diverse wildlife and vegetation. Great Blue Heron, Canadian geese, and other waterfowl can be seen in the area. Deer are also in abundance.

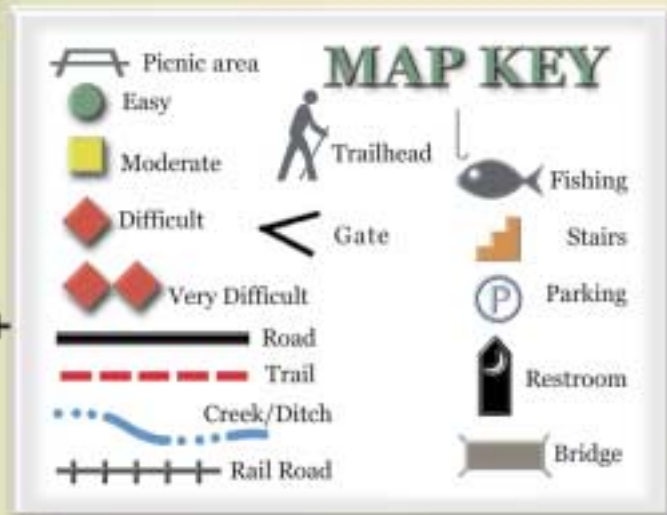
The trail starts off as crusher fines and maintains a width of about 5'. After about 0.5 miles, it crosses over railroad tracks (negotiable with a wheelchair) and turns into road base dirt/gravel. Maintaining a width of about 10', the trail runs along a fenced-off private lake and wetland area. After crossing the bridge at 0.9 miles, the trail begins to open up into prairie land. At this point the trail is on a slight uphill grade. After another 0.25 miles it reaches the base of a hill with two cottonwood trees that provide shade on hot days.

This is about as far as most wheelchair users can go. The trail turns into single-track dirt/sand with a width of about 36". It is rutted in places and reaches grades of 16-17%. There are several water bars to negotiate as well. After another 0.25 miles the trail turns back into road grade and flattens out slightly, only reaching grades of 8%. Eventually, it turns to single track again, becoming steep and rutted.

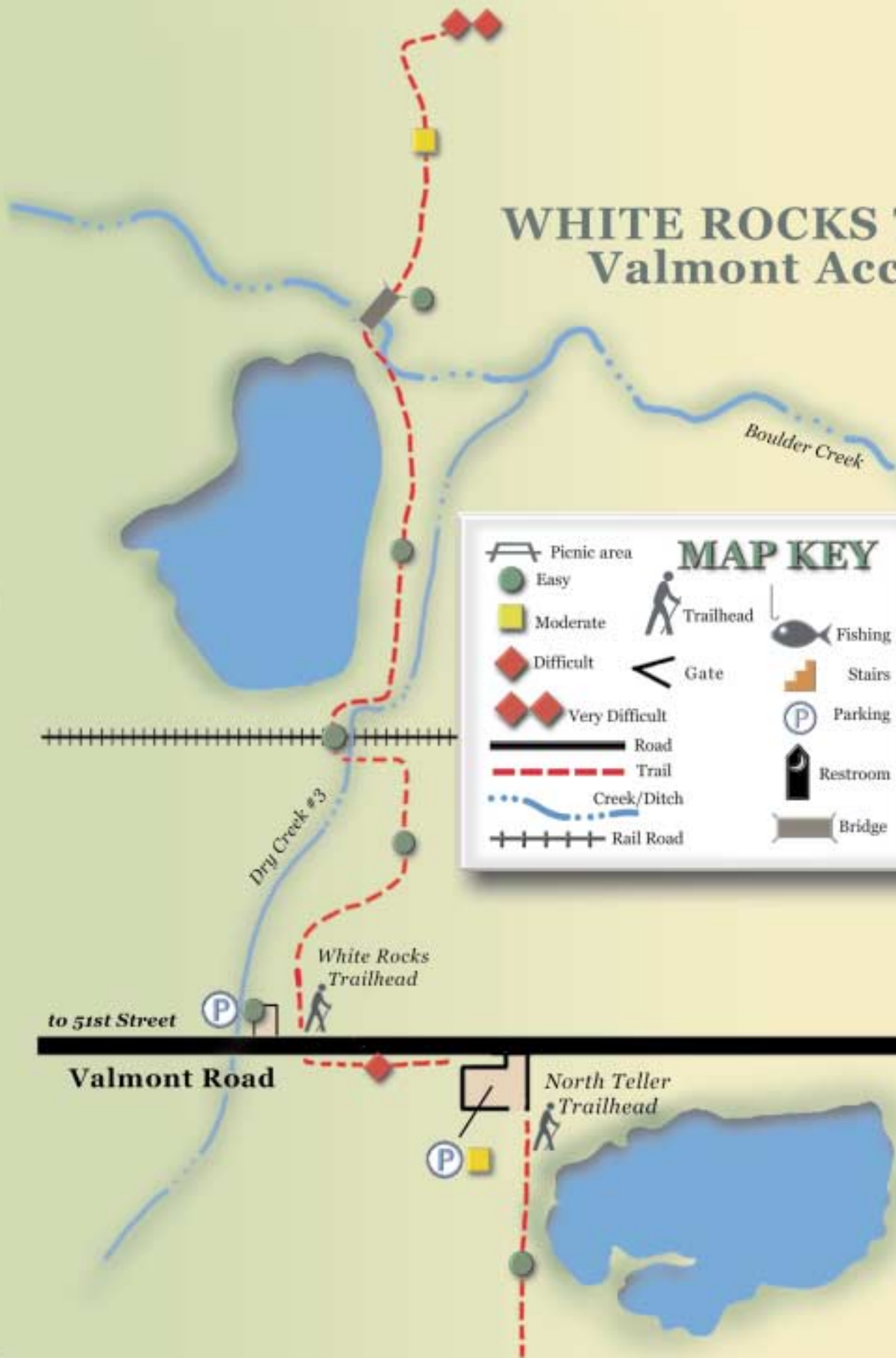


# WHITE ROCKS TRAIL

## Valmont Access



400'





## **TELLER FARM – Trail (T – 13)**

### **City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks**

<b>Rating:</b>	easy-moderate
<b>Distance:</b>	2.3 miles
<b>Surface:</b>	dirt/gravel
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 10' Min: 18" (avoidable route)
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 8%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 8% for 43'
<b>Picnic:</b>	2 tables (easy)
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs (voice/sight control, leash within 300' of South Teller Lake), horses, fishermen, bikes
<b>Parking:</b>	1 designated spot at South Teller Trailhead plus general parking – general parking only at North Teller Trailhead
<b>Structures:</b>	fishing pier (easy), 5 gates, 1 bridge
<b>Restrooms:</b>	1 set at South Teller (easy)
<b>Location:</b>	The South Teller Farm Trailhead is located west of 95 <sup>th</sup> St. on the north side of Arapahoe Rd. The North Teller Farm Trailhead is about 0.5 miles west of 95 <sup>th</sup> St. on the south side of Valmont Rd. Look for the brown City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks signs.

### **Description**

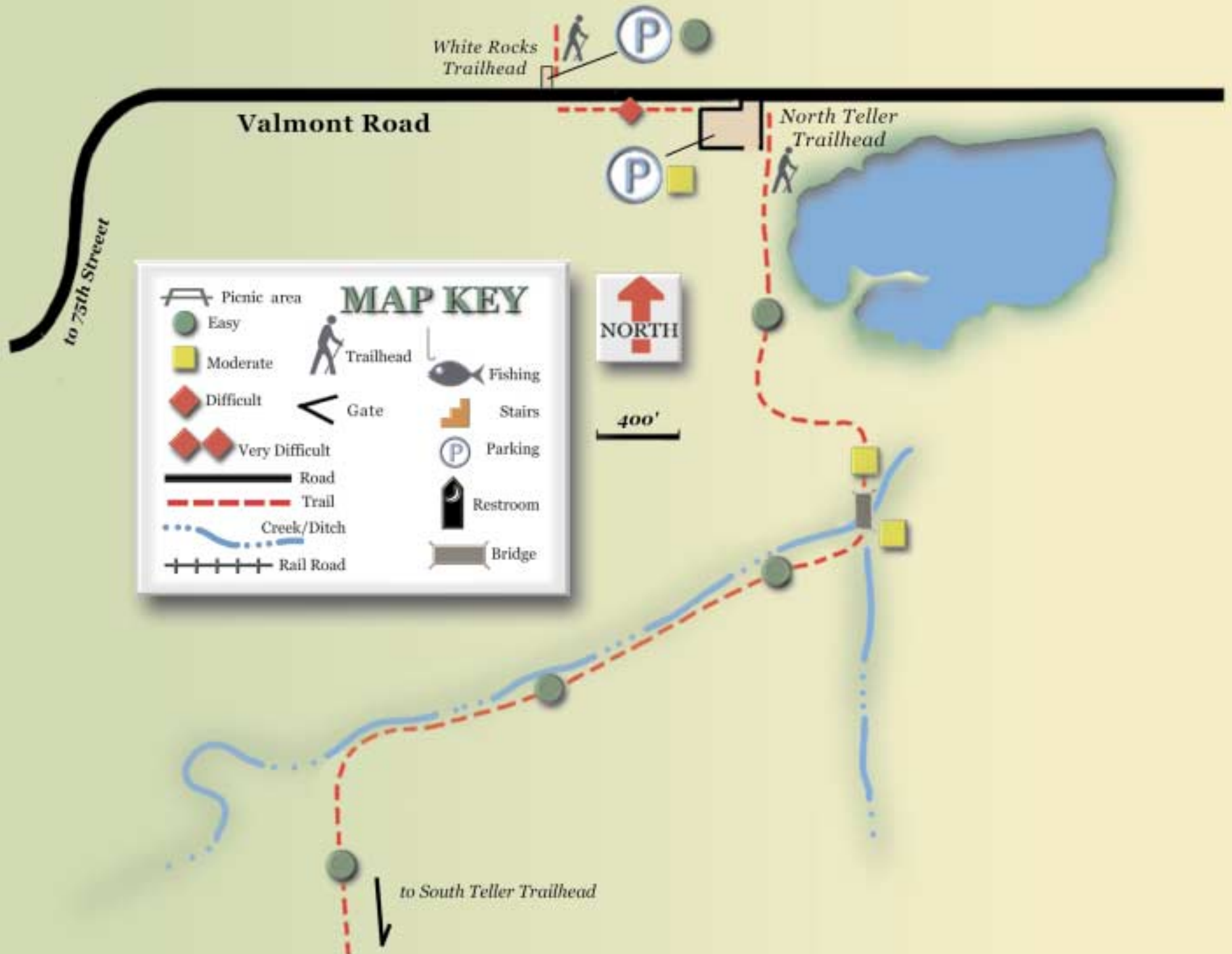
The Teller Farm Trail is a 2.3 mile dirt and gravel trail that has two trailheads. The trail is flat and easy and

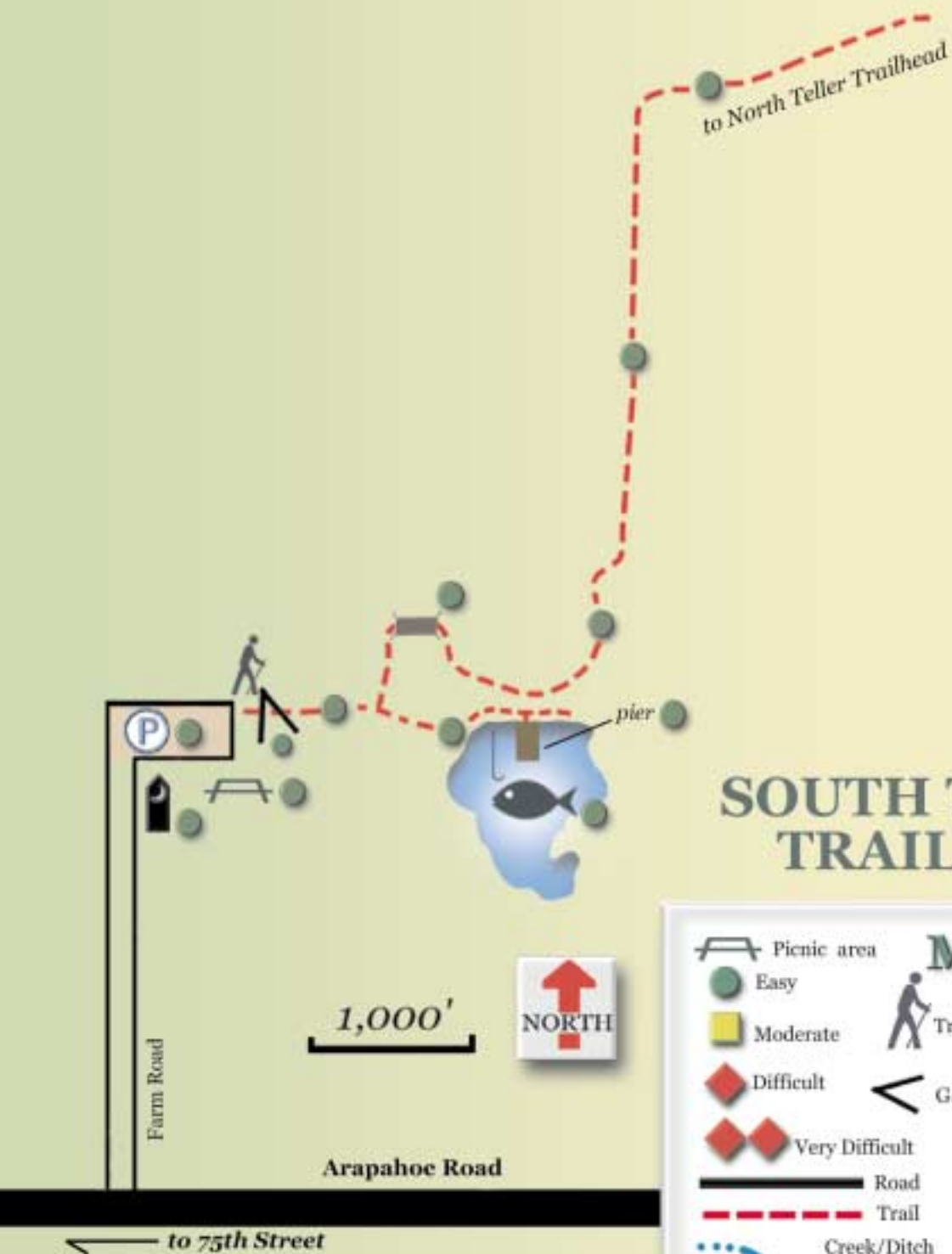
cuts through prairie and farmland. Horses, llamas, prairie dogs, along with a diversity of birds can be seen from the trail. Be aware that this trail offers very little sun protection on hot days. Shade is limited to a few rows of cottonwoods, a row of lilacs along the east side of the trail, and a few scattered trees. This lack of cover results in some sections of the trail being very muddy after severe rainstorms. On the bright side, because the trail is wide open, it does offer some incredible views of the Front Range peaks.

A wheelchair-accessible fishing pier is located on the lake nearest the South Teller Trailhead with a crusher fines trail leading to it. A bathroom and 2 picnic tables are also located near the South Teller Trailhead. There are closed gates at each end of the trail (North: 8 lbs., 42", South: 2 lbs., 61") and 3 gates in between that are without springs and usually open. An old bridge near the North Teller Trailhead is a bit difficult to maneuver over with a wheelchair, due to rotten boards and the 2-6" lip on each side of the bridge.

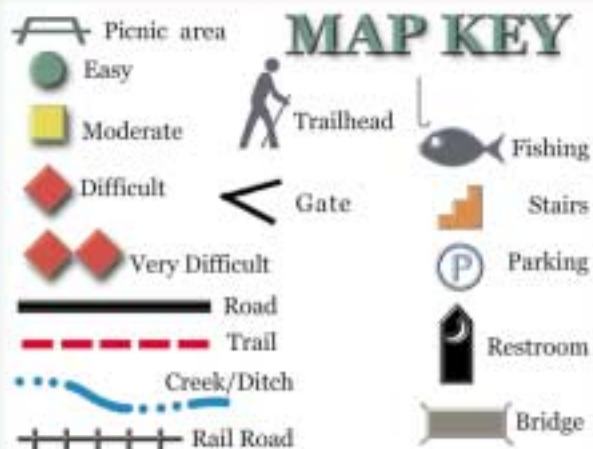


# NORTH TELLER TRAIL





## SOUTH TELLER TRAILHEAD



## **COTTONWOOD TRAIL (T – 14)**

City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

<b>Rating:</b>	easy
<b>Distance:</b>	1 mile
<b>Surface:</b>	dirt, road base
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 8' Min: 3'
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 9% for 20'
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 10% for 15'
<b>Picnic:</b>	none
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs (voice/sight control), horses, bikes
<b>Parking:</b>	general parking with no designated spots
<b>Structures:</b>	bridge
<b>Restrooms:</b>	none
<b>Location:</b>	The Cottonwood Trailhead is located on Independence Rd. just east of Foothills Pkwy. (Hwy. 157) between Valmont Rd. and 28 <sup>th</sup> St. in Boulder.

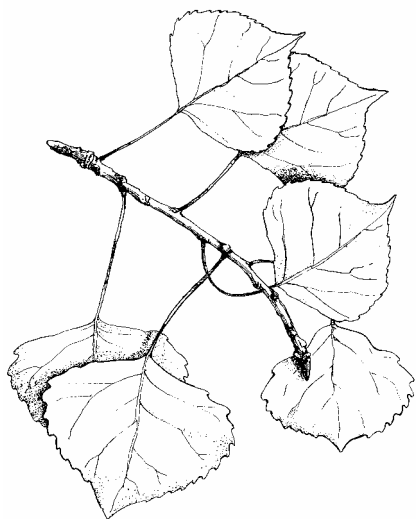
### **Description**

From 28<sup>th</sup> Street go east onto Iris Ave. Follow Iris Ave. east from Boulder. After you pass under Foothills Pkwy., travel less than 0.25 miles and turn right on Independence Rd. The trailhead is about 0.5 miles down the road on the right side. There are no designated parking spots, but the parking lot is large.

To access the trail, cross Independence Rd., and enter

through the opening in the fence. The trail starts out as a dirt path following the fence. After reaching the row of trees, the trail turns to road base, dirt and gravel and maintains a width of 8' for the duration of the trail. The trail weaves around following a line of trees and is generally flat with some grades of 1-2%. The most challenging section has a 10% grade for 15' about 0.5 miles down the trail. Soon after, there is a bridge crossing with a 4% approach.

After crossing the bridge, the trail follows Four Mile Creek. The trail has a few rolling hills with 4-7% grades with a maximum cross slope of 9%. The last 0.25 miles of trail veers away from the creek through fields and ends at Jay Rd. The vegetation in the area is mostly grasses and cottonwoods (thus the name of the trail). Birds of all sorts can be seen, as well as occasional deer.



**MAP KEY**

Picnic table	Easy	Trailhead	Fishing
Moderate	Gate	Stairs	Parking
Difficult	Restroom	Bridge	
Very Difficult			
Road			
Trail			
Creek/Ditch			
Rail Road			



# COTTONWOOD TRAIL

500'

Jay Road

Diagonal Highway (119)

Railroad

Cottonwood Trail

Four Mile Creek

Independence Road



Paved trail to U.C.A.R.

## **SOUTH BOULDER CREEK TRAIL (T-15)**

### **(Bobolink Trail Section)**

City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

<b>Rating:</b>	easy-moderate
<b>Distance:</b>	0.5 miles
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 7'6" Min: 5'
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 5%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 1% Max: 8% for 10'
<b>Picnic:</b>	1 table (easy)
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs (voice/sight control), bird watchers, joggers (bikes on adjacent bike path)
<b>Parking:</b>	2 designated spots plus general Parking, more parking at East Boulder Community Center
<b>Structures:</b>	1 bridge, water access ramp
<b>Restrooms:</b>	several (easy) at East Boulder Community Center
<b>Location:</b>	The SBCT starts at the Bobolink Trailhead located on the south side of Baseline Rd., 2 miles east of Foothills Pkwy. (Hwy. 157).

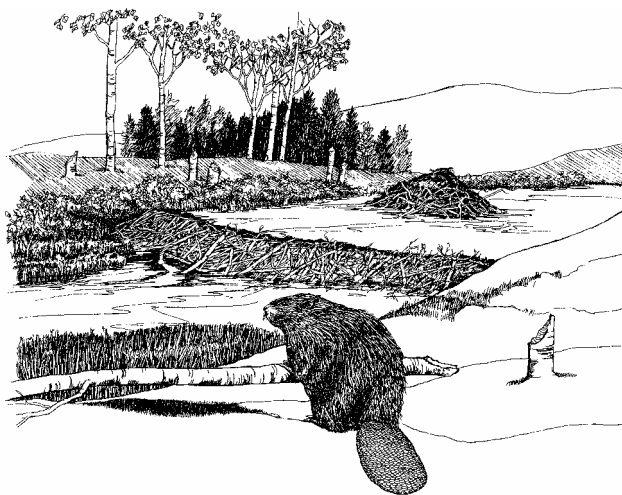
### **Description**

The Bobolink Trail section of the South Boulder Creek Trail is a 0.5 mile section that runs along the South Boulder Creek between Baseline Rd. and the East Boulder Community Center. There are three trails at



the trailhead: a dirt trail for horses, a concrete one for bicycles and a crusher fines trail for pedestrians. The crusher fines Bobolink Trail wanders through a lush riparian area with a large diversity of vegetation and wildlife, including the Preble's jumping mouse and the bobolink blackbird. Since most of the trail is covered by trees, finding shade on hot days is not a problem. There are also plenty of places to pull off the trail and relax alongside the stream. Small rolling hills are interspersed throughout the trail.

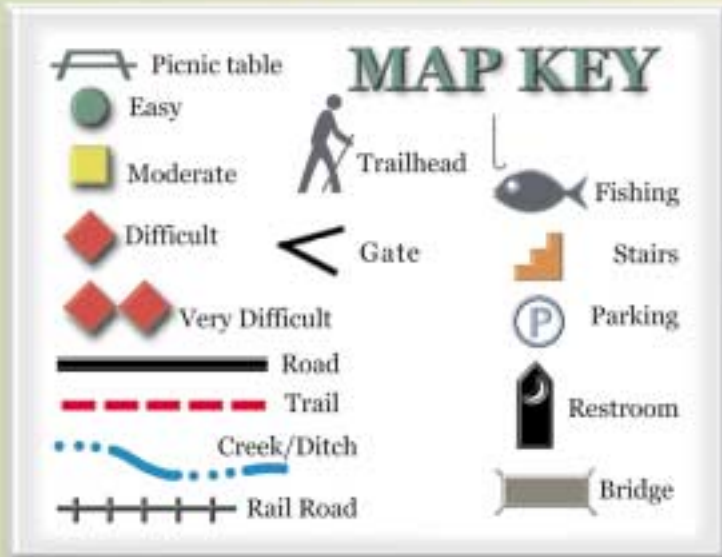
A concrete ramp leading to water's edge is a unique feature of this trail, providing easy access to the creek for wheelchair users. This ramp (sometimes covered in crusher fines) and a picnic table are both located near the trailhead. The Bobolink section of the South Boulder Creek Trail ends near the East Boulder Community Center, but the South Boulder Creek Trail continues on for several more miles (see other South Boulder Creek Trail descriptions).



Baseline Road

# BOBOLINK

## South Boulder Creek Trail



200'

Ditch

South Boulder Creek

Sioux Drive

East  
Boulder  
Community  
Center

55th Street

To South Boulder Road

Paved Creek  
Access

Paved Bike Path

Cherryvale Road

## **SOUTH BOULDER CREEK TRAIL (T-16)**

### **(East Boulder Community Center to S. Boulder Rd.)**

City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

<b>Rating:</b>	easy-difficult
<b>Distance:</b>	0.75 mile
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 7'6" Min: 5'
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 5%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: <1% Max: 10.5% for 32"
<b>Picnic:</b>	none
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs (voice/sight control), bikes, horses, joggers
<b>Parking:</b>	8 designated spots at East Boulder Community Center plus general parking. No parking on So. Boulder Rd.
<b>Structures:</b>	3 bridges
<b>Restrooms:</b>	several (easy) at EBCC
<b>Location:</b>	This section of SBCT starts at the East Boulder Community Center located at 5660 Sioux Dr. between So. Boulder Rd. and Baseline Rd. east of Hwy. 157.

### **Description**

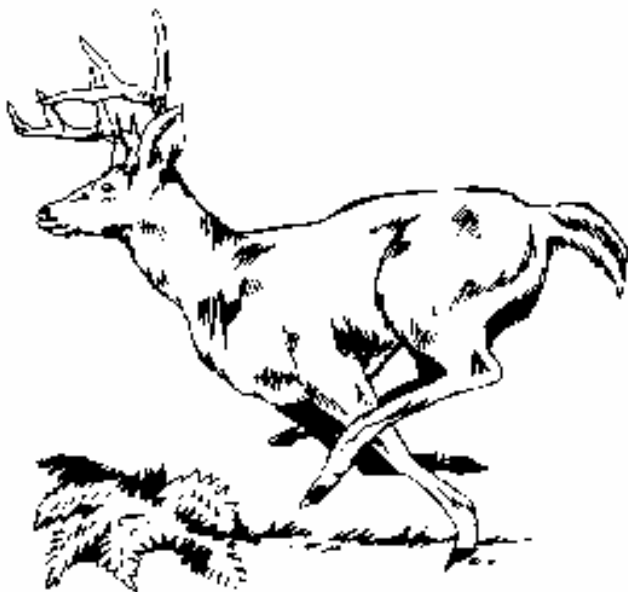
The section of the South Boulder Creek Trail between the East Boulder Community Center and South Boulder Road is a 0.75 mile section of trail that runs along the South Boulder Creek. The East Boulder

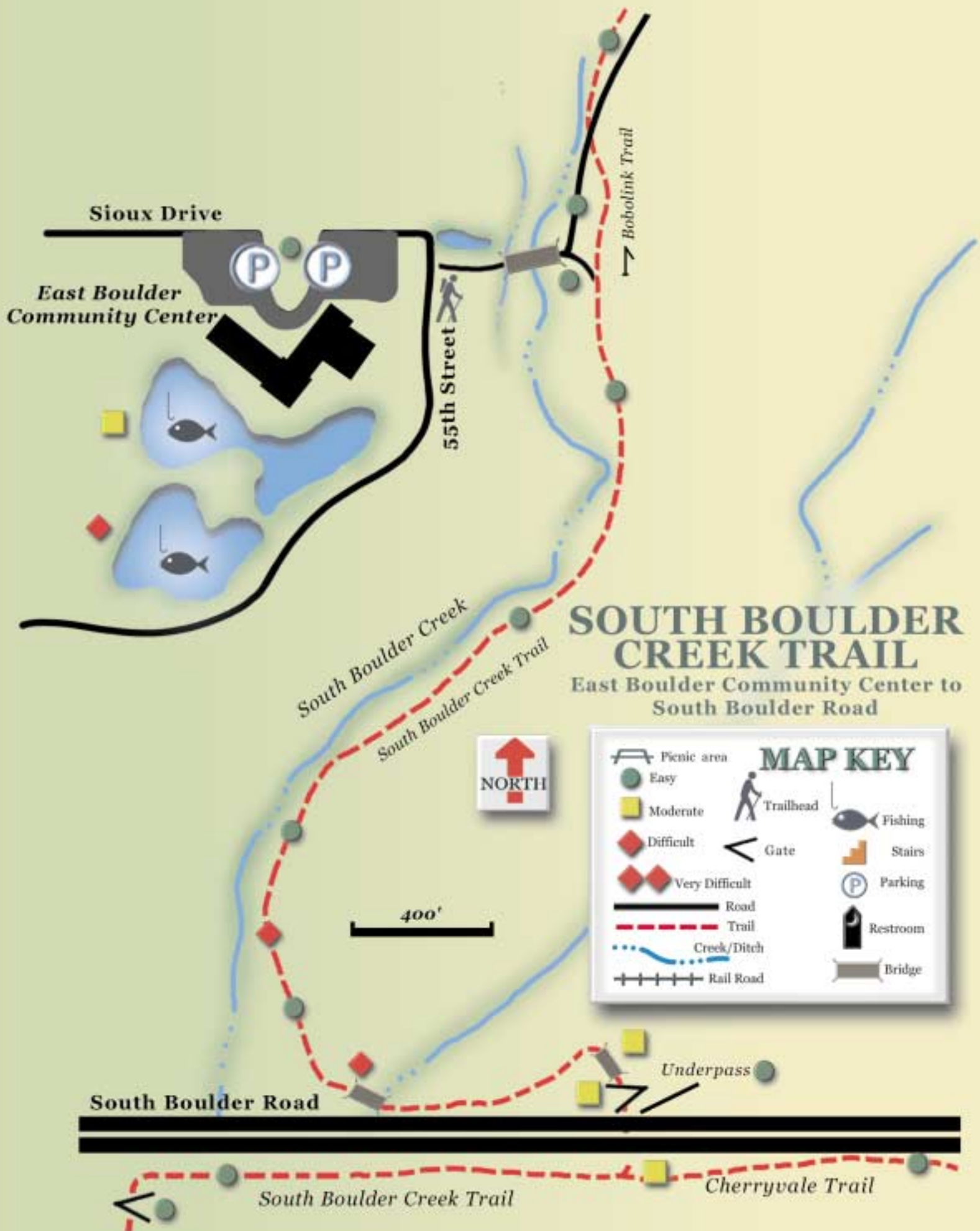
Community Center can either be accessed from So. Boulder Rd. going north on 55<sup>th</sup> St. or from Baseline Rd. turning south on 55<sup>th</sup> St. There is plenty of designated parking scattered throughout the EBCC parking lot. Bathrooms located in EBCC meet ADA standards.

This part of the South Boulder Creek Trail is the most difficult section due to some steep climbs (10.5%, 8.5%) and a tough bridge crossing. Like the Bobolink section, this trail wanders through a lush riparian area with a large diversity of vegetation and wildlife including the Preble's jumping mouse and the bobolink blackbird. The trail is skirted by trees and the creek to the west and fields of grass to the east. The trail is fairly open, but finding shade on hot days is really not a problem. There are also plenty of places to pull off the trail and relax alongside the stream. Aside from the challenging sections already mentioned, the trail is generally flat with some small rolling hills interspersed.

There are a couple of places on the trail where the grade gets steep. As it goes over an irrigation culvert, the trail reaches a grade of 10.5% for 30', on the south side of the culvert. There is a concrete bridge soon after which has an approaching slope of 8.5%. The crusher fines on this slope are sometimes loose and deep making it difficult to maneuver in a wheelchair, especially when trying to negotiate the lip onto the bridge (varies from 0.25" to 2"). The next bridge, several hundred feet down the trail, is much easier to cross with a flatter approach.

Just after the bridge, the trail reaches So. Boulder Rd., bringing you to the end of this section of the South Boulder Creek Trail. To continue on, follow the trail through the opening in the fence and through the underpass below So. Boulder Rd.





## **NOTES**

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

## **SOUTH BOULDER CREEK TRAIL (T-17)**

### **(S. Boulder Rd. to Marshall Rd.)**

City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

<b>Rating:</b>	easy
<b>Distance:</b>	2 miles
<b>Surface:</b>	road base dirt/gravel
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 10' Min: 3'9"
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 3%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 1% Max: 7% for 6'
<b>Picnic:</b>	none
<b>Other users:</b>	bikes, horses, cattle (dogs not allowed)
<b>Parking:</b>	nearby road-side parking only – no lot unless you park in designated spots at East Boulder Community Center
<b>Structures:</b>	3 bridges, 8 gates
<b>Restrooms:</b>	several (easy) at EBCC
<b>Location:</b>	This section of the SBCT runs between So. Boulder Rd. and Marshall Rd. alongside the South Boulder Creek and travels underneath Hwy. 36 where it approaches Boulder from the south.

### **Description**

You can access this section of the South Boulder Creek Trail from several spots. The closest place to park, although limited and dangerous, is on the shoulder of Marshall Rd. near where the trail comes out. The best way to get there is by way of S. Broadway. At the



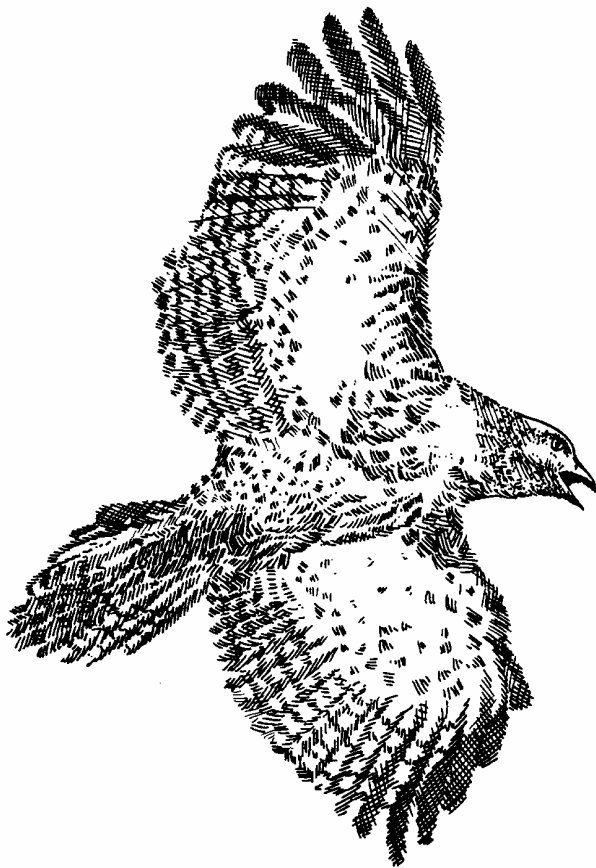
bottom of the hill south of Greenbriar Blvd., turn east off of S. Broadway and onto the frontage road (Marshall Rd.). The trailhead is off to the left less than a hundred feet down the road. Other parking is available on Cherryvale Rd. near the Open Space and Mountain Parks Administrative Building. This lot is near the intersection of So. Boulder Rd. and Cherryvale Rd. You can also park at the EBCC (see SBCT – East Boulder Community Center to S. Boulder Rd.), but this will add an extra section of trail to your hike.

This So. Boulder Rd. to Marshall Rd. section of trail is flat with a slight downhill grade as you travel from Marshall Rd. to So. Boulder Rd. and is often used for cattle grazing. It follows the South Boulder Creek but only comes within 50' of it. This road base dirt/gravel trail is an old ranch road that is popular among runners in the Boulder community, probably because of the spectacular view of Devil's Thumb and the Flatirons.

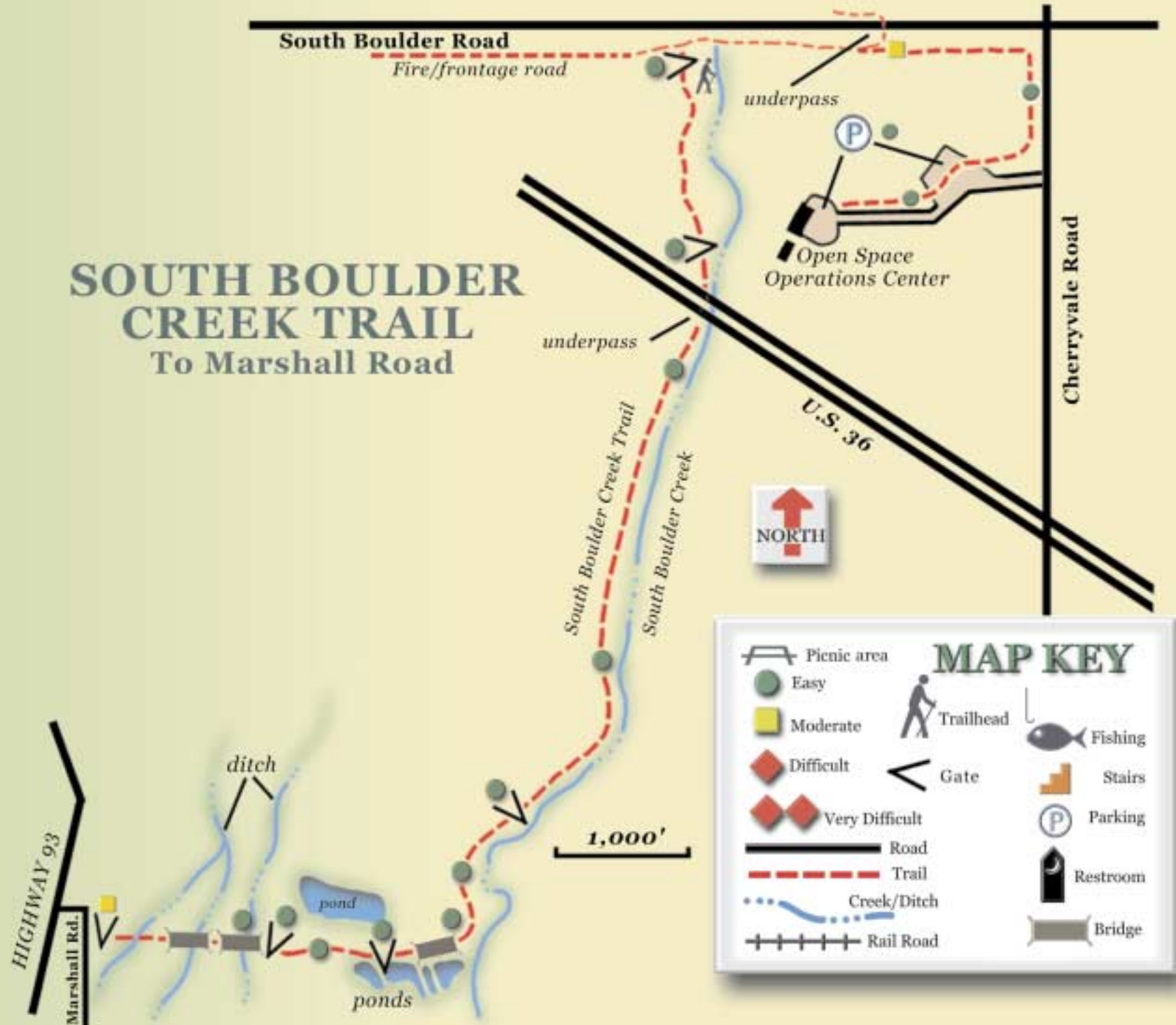
The trail runs through grassland and wetland habitats often grazed by cattle. A prairie dog colony is on the southwest part of the trail and deer can sometimes be seen near the creek. Various birds, including bobolink, rails, and great crested flycatchers, can also be spotted. Vegetation includes various grasses and wildflowers.

There are three bridges, all easy to cross. A total of eight gates are on this trail, four of which are seldom closed (narrowest width 3'). The gate at the Marshall Rd. trailhead is usually closed with a grade of 6% as

you approach it from the road (5 lbs., 36"). The So. Boulder Rd. gate is also kept closed (5 lbs., 43"). Two gates near the bridges are usually closed as well. All gates are very easy to open and close.



# SOUTH BOULDER CREEK TRAIL To Marshall Road



### MAP KEY

	Picnic area		Trailhead
	Easy		Gate
	Moderate		Fishing
	Difficult		Stairs
	Very Difficult		Parking
	Road		Restroom
	Trail		Bridge
	Creek/Ditch		
	Rail Road		

## **NOTES**

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

## **DRY CREEK TRAIL (T – 18)**

City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

<b>Rating:</b>	easy
<b>Distance:</b>	1 mile
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 7'6" Max: 6'
<b>Cross Slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 5% for 20'
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 8% for 20'
<b>Picnic:</b>	table (moderate)
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs (voice/sight control), horses, bikes
<b>Parking:</b>	2 designated spots plus general parking
<b>Structures:</b>	bridge
<b>Restrooms:</b>	none
<b>Location:</b>	Dry Creek Trailhead and parking are located on the south side of Baseline Rd. one mile east of Cherryvale Rd. (east of Hwy. 157) in southeast Boulder.

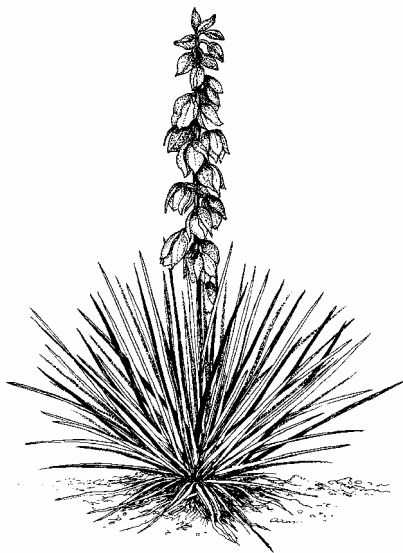
### **Description**

The Dry Creek Trail is a one mile trail running through the grasslands east of Boulder and attracts many dog walkers. Entering the Dry Creek area through a gate (7 lbs., 36"), the trail is in wide-open prairie most of the way. Some cover is provided by trees as the trail skirts along Dry Creek. A lone cottonwood stands to the westernmost part of the trail. The first 0.5 miles of

the trail is easy, flat and wide with road base dirt/gravel that slices through a prairie dog colony.

After crossing a wooden bridge (15' x 12', 1.5" maximum gap, no rails) the trail forks three ways. In two directions it turns into a crusher fines trail. This crusher fines trail makes an easy 0.6 mile loop. The toughest slope on the trail is 8% for 20' with a 5% cross slope near the lone cottonwood tree in the middle of the loop.

Cutting to the right, the trail is a dirt path. This is negotiable with a wheelchair, but could be muddy during spring or after a rain shower. After less than 0.5 miles it connects with the crusher fines trail at the lone cottonwood. Dry Creek Trail may be re-routed in 2000 but will remain easy for those using wheelchairs.



# DRY CREEK TRAILHEAD

←  
To Cherryvale Road

Baseline Road

Dry Creek #3

Baseline Reservoir  
No access to water

Dry Creek Trail



200'

**MAP KEY**

	Picnic area		Trailhead		Fishing
	Easy		Gate		Stairs
	Moderate		Parking		Restroom
	Difficult		Bridge		
	Very Difficult				
	Road				
	Trail				
	Creek/Ditch				
	Rail Road				

## COAL CREEK/ROCK CREEK TRAIL (T-19)

Boulder County Parks and Open Space and  
Cities of Louisville and Lafayette

<b>Rating:</b>	easy-difficult
<b>Distance:</b>	5.5 miles
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines, dirt/gravel, concrete
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 10' Min: 2' (at end of trail)
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 5% for 20'
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 15% for 30'
<b>Picnic:</b>	2 tables (easy)
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs on leash, bikes
<b>Parking:</b>	1 designated spot at Aquarius Trailhead plus general parking. Other parking is possible at Coal Creek Golf Club and at the end of Elysian Field Dr.
<b>Structures:</b>	5 gates, 4 bridges, picnic shelter with 2 tables
<b>Restrooms:</b>	none
<b>Location:</b>	The Aquarius Trailhead is located off of Hwy. 42 about 1.5 miles south of So. Boulder Rd. in Louisville.

### Description

Heading south on Hwy. 42, the trailhead is a little less than 1.5 miles from South Boulder Rd. The trailhead is located on the crest of a hill on the left of Hwy. 42 and can be missed if you blink an eye. It is recommended, though, that you park on one of the



side streets near Coal Creek to avoid the steeper, less negotiable sections of the trail. The best spot is on Elysian Fields Dr. To get there, take So. Boulder Rd. to Centaur Village Dr. one mile east of Highway 42. This is the street right after Centaurus High School. Go south. Drive 0.25 miles to the first stop sign and turn left (Centaur Circle). Make a quick right on Elysian Fields Dr. and drive to the end of the street. One of the most beautiful sections of the Coal Creek/Rock Creek Trail is in this area.

Starting from Elysian Fields Dr., the Coal Creek/Rock Creek Trail goes both to the east and west. Heading east, this crusher fines trail follows Coal Creek for almost a mile as it meanders under Hwy. 287 to S. Public Rd. The path is plenty wide and hard packed with some little rolling hills. The steepest part on this section is 10% for 30'. There are three gates to negotiate on this section of the trail (2lbs, 3'; 0 lbs, 3.5'; 1 lb, 3.5')

If you head west from Elysian Fields Dr., the trail follows the creek for 0.5 miles, then heads out into an open field, crosses Empire Rd., and heads up the hillside to Aquarius Trailhead. The trailhead is approximately one mile from Elysian Fields Dr. At the Empire Rd. crossing, there is a gate (5lbs, 3') and a 15% grade for 30'. This tough grade is followed by a 6" lip to get on the road. This is very difficult, if not impossible, to negotiate with a wheelchair.

After crossing the road there is another gate (0 lbs, 3.5'). The worst grade on this hillside is 10% for 50'.

Upon reaching the Aquarius Trailhead, the trail continues west. It drops down the hillside and follows Hwy. 42. It maintains an average grade of about 8%. The trail then veers under Hwy. 42 and continues along the south side of it. Eventually, the trail starts following Coal Creek again, maintaining a fairly flat grade with a few short ups and downs. Approximately 1.2 miles from the Aquarius Trailhead, the Coal Creek/Rock Creek Trail meets 96<sup>th</sup> St.

At this point you can either head through an open field on a difficult trail with some very tough sections or use existing streets to reconnect with the Coal Creek/Rock Creek Trail. To follow the streets, take 96<sup>th</sup> St. north to Rex St. (only a few hundred feet). Take Rex St. west 0.15 miles to Roosevelt Ave. (the difficult trail through the open field from 96<sup>th</sup> St. connects to Roosevelt Ave.) Follow Roosevelt Ave. south 0.2 miles to Bella Vista Ave. Turn right on Bella Vista and follow it for 0.12 miles. The trail is on the right.

This trail continues to wind through fields and patches of trees. It also continues along a golf course so watch out for stray golf balls. The crusher fines section of the trail ends at 2.6 miles on the hillside at the edge of a housing development. The trail continues on as a sidewalk through a neighborhood and beside a golf course and ends on Dillon Rd. at 3.42 miles.

# COAL CREEK TRAIL



## **NOTES**

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

## MESA TRAIL – SOUTH (T-20)

City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

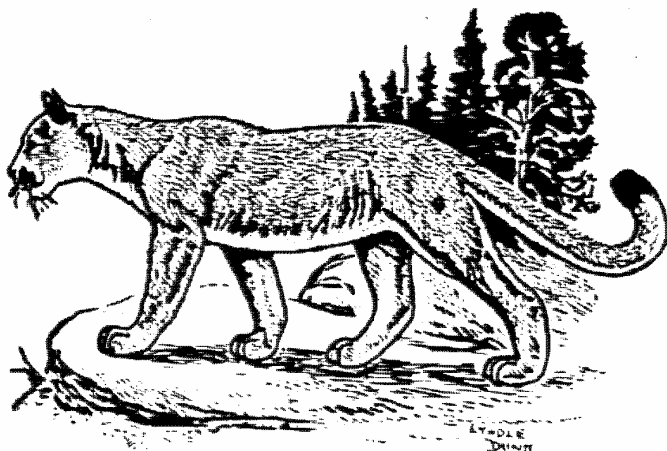
<b>Rating:</b>	easy-difficult
<b>Distance:</b>	2 miles
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines and road base
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 9' Min: 7'6"
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 2%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 3% Max: 9% for 150'
<b>Picnic:</b>	7 tables (easy)
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs (voice/sight control), horses anglers, bird watchers
<b>Parking:</b>	2 designated spots plus general parking
<b>Structures:</b>	2 bridges
<b>Restrooms:</b>	1 set (easy)
<b>Location:</b>	The Mesa Trailhead – South is about 2 miles from Hwy. 93 as you head west on Hwy. 190 towards Eldorado Springs. The parking lot is on the North side of Hwy 190 and is across the road from Douby Draw Trailhead.

### Description

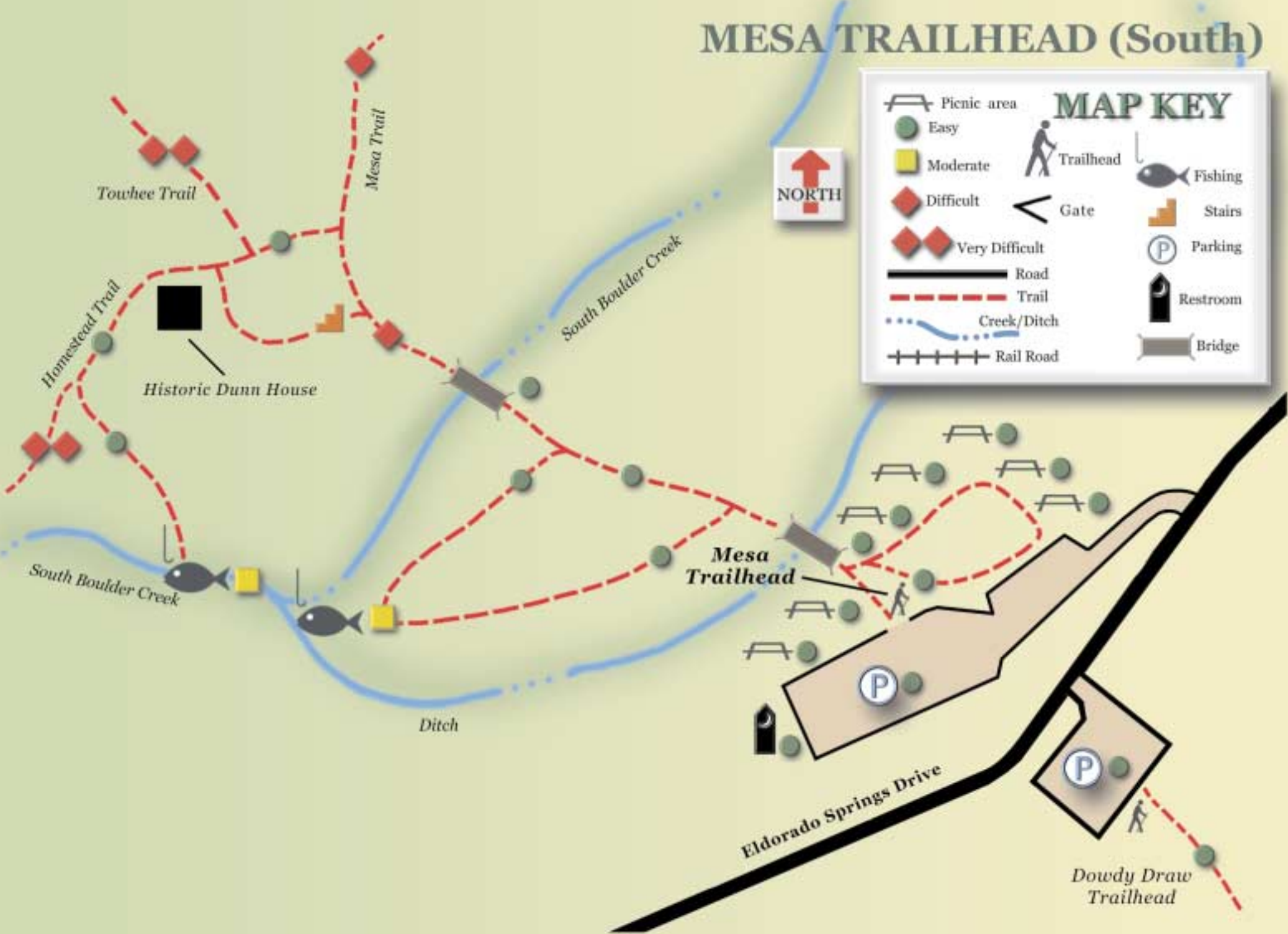
The Mesa Trail starts off fairly flat and easy but becomes more difficult after crossing the second bridge about 0.1 miles along the trail. The trail has a gradual uphill grade as you head north with some long, steep grades of 9%, making it a difficult trail to hike in

a wheelchair. On the bright side, the trail is a wide, road base trail with only a few eroded areas. The trail is 6.9 miles long, extending from South Mesa Trailhead to the Bluebell Shelter, but only about 2 miles of it is somewhat negotiable in a wheelchair. The rest becomes too narrow, steep, and rocky.

The easier portion of the trail starts out in a riparian area along South Boulder Creek and opens up onto grasslands in the foothills of the Rockies. This lends itself to a diversity of plant life and animal species. Deer, black bears, and cougars all spend time in this area. Birds are abundant, with various raptors nesting in the nearby cliffs. The Mesa Trail does not provide much shade once leaving the creek vegetation. Only an occasional Rocky Mountain Juniper gives any cover on a boiling summer day.



# MESA TRAILHEAD (South)



## **FOWLER TRAIL (T-21)**

Eldorado Canyon State Park

<b>Rating:</b>	easy - moderate
<b>Length:</b>	0.4 miles (easy-moderate), continues for 0.35 miles more (black-double black)
<b>Surface:</b>	crusher fines
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 7' Min: 29" where trail continues as single track
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 2.5%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 1-2% Max: 13% for 10'
<b>Picnic:</b>	none
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs on leash, birders, bikers on Rattlesnake Gulch Trail
<b>Parking:</b>	1 designated spot plus general parking
<b>Structures:</b>	none
<b>Restrooms:</b>	0.1 miles west of Fowler Trailhead: 1 set (easy) on the south side of the creek, multiple stalls in restroom at Nature Center (moderate-difficult) On the north side of the creek; 0.15 miles east of Fowler Trailhead: 1 set (easy) at main parking lot
<b>Location:</b>	The Fowler Trailhead is about 3.5 miles west of Hwy. 93 south of Boulder near the western end of Eldorado Canyon Dr. A fee is required to enter ECSP.



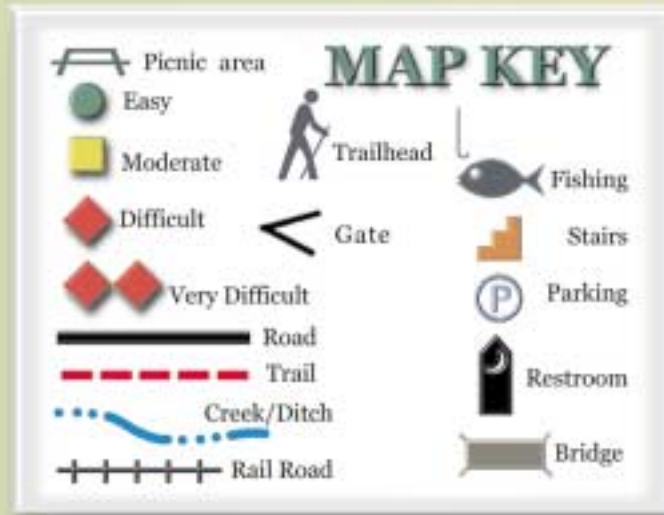
## **Description**

The first 0.4 miles of Fowler Trail is an easy-moderate crusher fines mountain trail that offers some incredible views of the cliff walls of Eldorado Canyon. Rock climbers can be seen in abundance following different routes along these rocky outcroppings. Wildlife such as mule deer, ground squirrels and hawks are often spotted in the canyon.

The Fowler Tail is a fairly easy, straight trail that follows along the edge of the canyon. Most of the trail runs at a 1-2% uphill grade, with a 0.25 mile section running at 5%, a 20' section running at 9%, and a 10' section running at 13%. Trees line both sides of the trail, providing cover. The Rattlesnake Gulch Trail veers off to the right at 0.12 miles while the Fowler trail continues straight ahead. At 0.2 miles, an accessible raptor viewing station is provided. The viewing station is near the Robert J. Slater Memorial Bench and includes interpretive signs and a viewing scope.

The easy-moderate section of Fowler Trail ends at the Bastille Descent at about 0.4 miles. The trail continues on at that point, but is steep, rocky, and narrow at times. One set of easy restrooms is located 0.1 miles west of the Fowler Trail trailhead, but due to the steepness of the dirt road, it may be necessary to drive. The other easy restroom facility is located at the main parking lot to the east.

# FOWLER TRAIL



500'



## **GREENBELT PLATEAU TRAIL (T-22)**

City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

<b>Rating:</b>	easy-difficult
<b>Distance:</b>	1.6 miles
<b>Surface:</b>	gravel, road base
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 9' Min: 7'6"
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 3% for 20'
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 4% Max: 8% for 500'
<b>Picnic:</b>	none
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs (voice/sight control), horses, bikes
<b>Parking:</b>	general parking with no designated spots
<b>Structures:</b>	3 gates
<b>Restrooms:</b>	none
<b>Location:</b>	The Greenbelt Plateau Trailhead is located on the corner of Hwy 93 and Hwy 128 just south of Boulder.

### **Description**

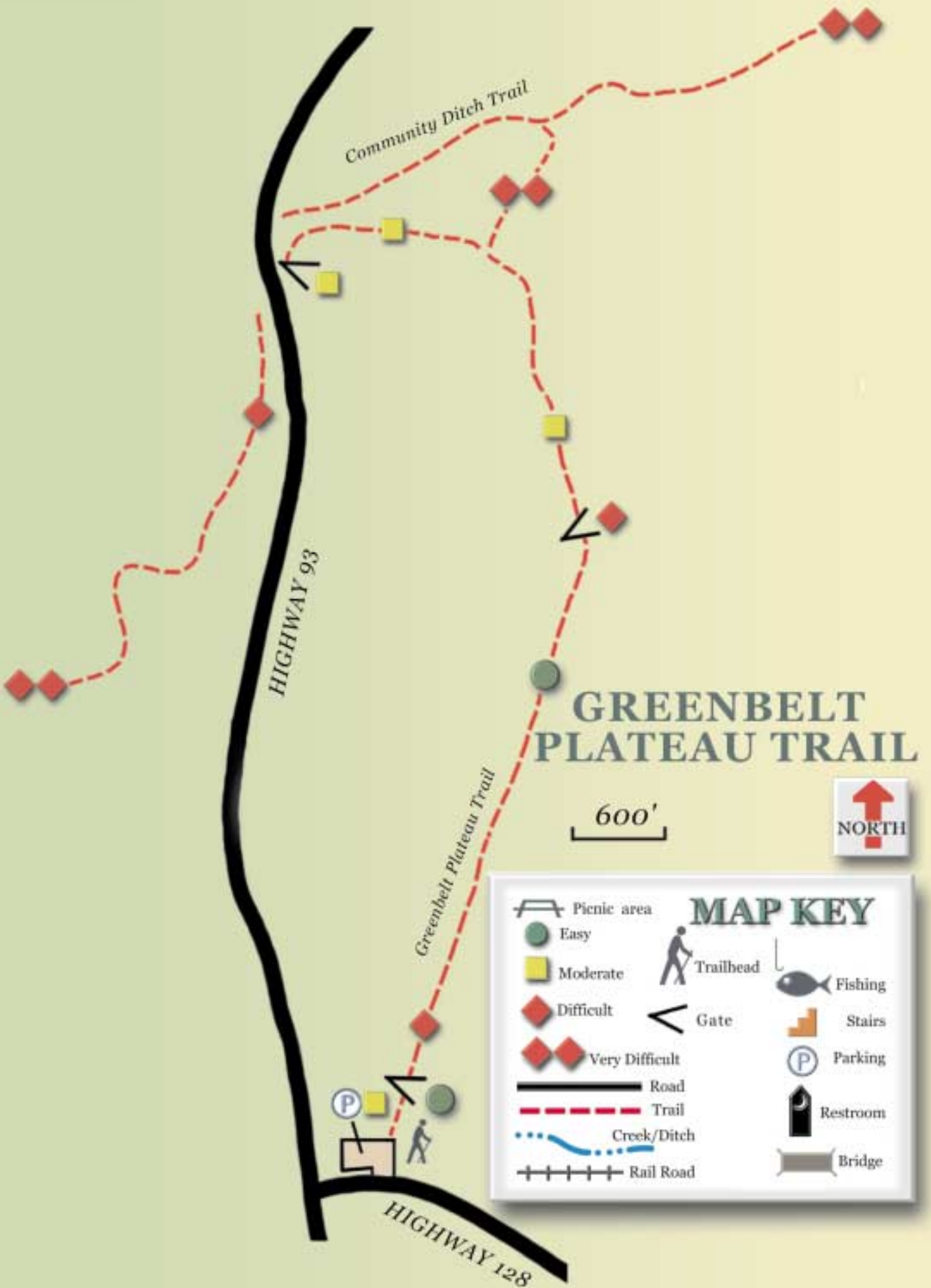
There are no designated parking spots at the trailhead but the lot is large, flat and rarely full. The trail is moderate to difficult in a wheelchair due mainly to the surface type. It is road base and dirt, thick with loose gravel. This road base surface continues on for almost one mile as you climb to the top of the plateau. Dropping down the other side, the trail turns to a dirt road with smaller loose gravel for the duration. The trail has some long flat sections, but also has some

long descents and ascents (0.1 miles with 8% and 0.3 miles with 7%). After traveling a little over 1.5 miles, the trail ends at Hwy. 93. There is limited parking there and it is a busy road that is difficult to enter.

There are three gates on the trail, one at the beginning (0.5 lbs, 44"), one at the end (2lbs, 36"), and one in the middle (35"). This middle gate has a difficult lever/latch opening mechanism, no springs.

Vegetation is prairie-like with many grasses, wildflowers, and an occasional yucca. A few Ponderosa pine trees are scattered haphazardly along the plateau. The trail is wide open most of the way. This does not provide for much shade on hot days but does allow for a great view of Eldorado Canyon and the Flatirons.





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Mutel, Cornelia Fleischer and John C. Emerick. *From Grassland to Glacier: The Natural History of Colorado and the Surrounding Region*. Boulder, CO: Johnson Books, 1992.

Benedict, Audrey DeLella. *A Sierra Club Naturalist's Guide to the Southern Rockies: the Rocky Mountain regions of Southern Wyoming, Colorado, and Northern New Mexico*. San Francisco, CA: Sierra Club Books, 1991.

Gray, Mary Taylor. *Colorado Wildlife Viewing Guide*. Helena, MT: Falcon Press, 1992.

Rennicke, Jeff. *Colorado Wildlife. Colorado Geographic Series, number 6*. Helena, MT: Falcon Press, 1990.

Cushman, Ruth Carol and Glen Cushman. *Boulder Hiking Trails*. Boulder, CO: Pruett Publishing Co., 1995.

## **Other Resources**

- USDA Forest Service, Boulder Ranger District  
303-541-2512
- US Bureau of Land Management, Denver  
303-239-3600
- Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park  
970-586-1206
- Colorado State Parks, Denver  
303-866-2303
- Colorado Division of Wildlife, Northeast Region  
303-291-7227

# AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT DESIGN GUIDELINES

## Outdoor Recreation *Access Routes*:

	Urban/rural (Easier)	Roaded/nat'l (Moderate)	Semi-Primitive Difficult)
Width (min.)	48"	36"	36"
May be reduced to 32" wide for	2'	2'	2'
Sustained running slope (max.)	5%	5%	8.3%
Max. grade allowed	8.3%	10%	10%
For a max. distance of	30'	50'	50'
Cross slope (max.)	3%	3%	3%
Passing space interval (max.)	200'	300'	400'
Rest area interval (max.)	400'	900'	1200'
Small level changes (max.)	½"	½"	1"
Gaps in walking surface (max.)	½"	½"	½"

## Outdoor Recreation *Trails*:

	Urban/rural (Easier)	Roaded/nat'l (Moderate)	Semi-Primitive (Difficult)
Width (min.)	48"	36"	28"
May be reduced to 32" wide for	10'	30'	--
Sustained running slope (max.)	5%	8.3%	12.5%
Max. grade allowed	10%	14%	20%
For a max. distance of	30'	50'	50'
Cross slope (max.)	3%	5%*	8.3%*
Passing space interval (max.)	200'	300'	400'
Rest area interval (max.)	400'	900'	1200'
Small level changes (max.)	1"	2"	3"
Gaps in walking surface (max.)	½"	½"	½"

\* 3% and 5% respectively, on max. grade segments.